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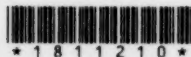
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Turkmenistan

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Turkmenistan was held at the 1st meeting, on 7 May 2018. The delegation of Turkmenistan was headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Vepa Hajyyev. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Turkmenistan.
2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Turkmenistan: Burundi, Croatia and Pakistan.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Turkmenistan:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TKM/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TKM/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TKM/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Turkmenistan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation of Turkmenistan expressed confidence that a constructive dialogue in the working group would help to achieve further progress in the implementation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens of Turkmenistan.
6. During the reporting period, Turkmenistan had engaged in a dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture. Subsequently, the Government had started to follow up on the concluding observations received from those Committees.
7. A series of efforts had been made to improve domestic legislation to bring it into line with international human rights standards. In 2016, Turkmenistan had adopted a new Constitution with an expanded section on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Constitution placed a strong emphasis on the universally accepted norms of international law. The Government had focused its efforts on ensuring the implementation of the provisions of international treaties at the national level.
8. The Constitution had introduced the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson). Subsequently, Parliament had adopted the Ombudsperson Act in 2016, which had established the mandate and functions of the Ombudsperson. The Law had been drafted in cooperation with relevant international experts, including from the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It had come into force in January 2017 and the Ombudsperson had been elected in March 2017. In April 2018, the Ombudsperson had submitted its first annual report.

9. The Government had adopted the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for the period 2015–2020, the National Action Plan on Human Rights in Turkmenistan for the period 2016–2020 and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for the period 2016–2018.

10. The delegation reported on the implementation of a number of recommendations from the second review cycle. Turkmenistan had taken measures to strengthen cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms. The Government had carried out several initiatives within the Human Rights Council, including co-sponsoring the Council's resolutions on gender equality and mainstreaming a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on the realization of human rights through sport. The Government had been planning a visit by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights in the coming years. The authorities had held meetings with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to exchange views on selected cases and discuss further mutual cooperation.

11. The authorities had cooperated with the relevant international organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), on issues of forced labour. Some high-level officials of ILO had visited Turkmenistan to provide advice and technical assistance on the issues of ratification of new conventions and on the implementation of those conventions that had been already ratified by Turkmenistan.

12. The delegation reported on some measures that had been taken to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The authorities, in cooperation with the United Nations country team in Turkmenistan had developed a three-stage plan on how to incorporate those goals and relevant targets at the national level. As a result of those efforts, the President had adopted a national action plan on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan. In addition, a high-level national committee and interdepartmental committee on technical matters of the implementation of the goals had been established.

13. Since its second universal periodic review, Turkmenistan had acceded to a number of international treaties, including the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 2003 (No. 185) and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1954 and 1999 Protocols thereto.

14. National experts had examined the question of accession to other international treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Discrimination in Education.

15. Turkmenistan had adopted in 2016 amendments to the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for the period 2016–2018. The Government had developed standard operating procedures for the effective identification of trafficking victims and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the National Action Plan.

16. An anti-corruption law had been adopted in 2014. Subsequently, a State programme on combating corruption and an action plan for its implementation had been adopted in 2017. The Government had established a State agency on combating economic crimes.

17. Turkmenistan had adopted the Information Protection Act in 2014, which regulated matters related to the exercise of the right to seek, receive, produce, use and disseminate information, and also the application of information technologies and the protection of information. The Act on the Legal Regulation of the Development of the Internet and the Provision of Internet Services in Turkmenistan had been adopted in 2014. The delegation provided detailed information to demonstrate an increase in Internet access and the use of modern communication technologies by the general population. It noted that no Internet

access restrictions had been identified, including on publishing information on local and foreign websites.

18. The delegation responded to a statement claiming there had been a ban on several thousand individuals, stating that such an assertion was incorrect and that restrictions exercised on exiting the country had been carried out in line with national legislation and in the interest of public security and the safety of individuals.

19. The delegation explained that the authorities had continued efforts to ensure the realization of the right to freedom of religion by maintaining regular contact with the representatives of religious organizations and by organizing meetings to bring together various religious organizations and churches.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 74 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. The Netherlands welcomed the adoption by Turkmenistan of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality and the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It remained concerned about the continued pressure on human rights defenders and the media.

22. Nigeria commended Turkmenistan for its enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act 2016 and for its efforts to combat trafficking in person, to ensure equality and non-discrimination, to promote religious tolerance among its population and to strengthen the legal framework to bring it into compliance with international human rights standards.

23. Norway welcomed the participation of Turkmenistan in the universal periodic review. It remained concerned about the human rights situation in the country.

24. Paraguay recognized the important work done by the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance with the International Obligations Undertaken by Turkmenistan in the Field of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which served as a platform for follow-up to the recommendations received from various human rights bodies.

25. The Philippines congratulated Turkmenistan for the adoption in 2016 of its new Constitution, including new articles safeguarding civil rights and fundamental freedoms. It commended Turkmenistan for having ratified several human rights treaties and for its work in fighting trafficking in persons.

26. Poland welcomed the adoption of the 2016 Ombudsperson Act, which had established the rights, duties and authority of the Ombudsperson. It noted that the Ombudsperson should act independently and be granted with an adequate budget.

27. Portugal welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution and the fact that it included a new section on human rights and fundamental freedoms. It noted with appreciation the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating trafficking in persons.

28. Qatar welcomed the report of Turkmenistan regarding the implementation of the recommendations received in the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons.

29. The Republic of Korea noted the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the strengthened human rights protections contained in the new Constitution, adopted in 2016. It also noted the active cooperation of Turkmenistan with the human rights treaty bodies.

30. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of national action plans on gender equality, on human rights and on combating trafficking in persons. It encouraged the Government to consolidate measures for the effective implementation of the above-mentioned policies. It noted concerns expressed about the underrepresentation of women in public and private sectors.

31. The Russian Federation noted with appreciation the new provisions on the Office of the Ombudsperson in the new Constitution and reforms that had been made in the health sector. It noted the adoption of the State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men Act and a programme for enhancing the employment sector and creating new jobs for the period up to 2020, as well as the action plan for its implementation.
32. Saudi Arabia noted efforts to improve further the cooperation with the United Nations, especially with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the period 2016–2020.
33. Senegal praised Turkmenistan for its ratification of a number of international instruments and its adoption in 2016 of a new Constitution, which focused on the multiparty political system and respect for human rights.
34. Serbia encouraged the Government to improve its cooperation with the human rights mechanism of the United Nations. It welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the adoption of numerous laws that complied with the relevant human rights treaties.
35. Slovakia noted with appreciation the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating trafficking in persons. It noted the adoption in 2016 of a new Constitution, which included a section on human rights but also provided for limitations of those rights made by law.
36. Slovenia welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson and encouraged Turkmenistan to ensure its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It expressed concern at the human rights situation in the Turkmenistan, in particular allegations involving enforced disappearances and torture, and restrictions to the enjoyment of freedom of movement and expression.
37. Spain welcomed with satisfaction the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons. It was concerned at the high number of allegations of torture and ill-treatment against detainees in Turkmenistan.
38. Sweden stated that the enforced disappearance of prisoners had continued and remained systemic.
39. Switzerland deplored that the human rights situation in Turkmenistan had not improved since the previous review. The visits of several special procedure mandate holders had been on pending for a long time. Switzerland remained particularly concerned at the incarceration rate and the conditions of detention in Turkmenistan.
40. Tajikistan noted the progress that had been made in Turkmenistan in the area of human and the establishment of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
41. Togo congratulated Turkmenistan for the progress it had made since the second review in reforming the national human rights system, in particular the adoption in 2016 of a new Constitution, which included new provisions on human rights. It encouraged Turkmenistan to continue those efforts with a view to improving the human rights situation in the country.
42. Ukraine noted the efforts undertaken by Turkmenistan to improve the institutional and legislative framework for human rights, including the ratification of several international treaties, the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating trafficking in persons, as well as the adoption of the law on the Office of the Ombudsperson.
43. The United Kingdom remained concerned by allegations of torture, incommunicado detentions and restrictions on access to justice and access to information in Turkmenistan. It was also concerned by restrictions on the rights to freedom of movement, expression, association and religion or belief and the use of forced labour to harvest cotton.
44. The United States of America appreciated the efforts Turkmenistan had made to protect conscientious objectors and improve prison conditions. However, it was concerned

at the reported use of excessive force by security forces, undue restrictions placed on the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, religion and movement, and at harsh prison conditions. It urged Turkmenistan to allow all individuals to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

45. Uruguay welcomed the measures Turkmenistan had implemented since its second review, in particular the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and measures for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

46. Uzbekistan welcomed the legal reforms in Turkmenistan and its adoption of laws aimed at strengthening the national human rights protection system. It noted the fact that Turkmenistan accorded particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights and the protection of the rights of children and women.

47. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Turkmenistan for its social programmes for all, its commitment aimed to promote gender equality and the incorporation of the establishment of a national human rights institution in the Constitution.

48. Yemen welcomed the report of Turkmenistan regarding the implementation of the recommendations received in the previous universal periodic review. It commended Turkmenistan for its important efforts aimed at improving the human rights situation in the country.

49. Afghanistan noted the efforts of Turkmenistan in reforming its national system for the protection of human rights. It commended Turkmenistan for having submitted periodic reports to the human rights bodies, particularly the Human Rights Committee.

50. Algeria commended Turkmenistan for having ratified several international treaties. It noted with satisfaction the adoption in 2016 of the new Constitution, which included guarantees for human rights in compliance with international human rights law.

51. Argentina congratulated Turkmenistan for the adoption in 2016 of its new Constitution and for the establishment of a national human rights institution. It noted the effort of Turkmenistan aimed at improving the national legislation related to hate crimes.

52. Armenia welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. It encouraged Turkmenistan to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights and to ratify human rights instruments.

53. Australia appreciated the steps Turkmenistan had taken aimed at establishing a national human rights institution through the Office of the Ombudsperson. It was concerned that civil and political rights were restricted in practice. It welcomed the introduction of a prison reform programme.

54. Austria welcomed an increase in number of projects Turkmenistan had undertaken with OSCE and the measures it had adopted to improve the legal and institutional framework. It noted that incommunicado detentions had recently been reported and asked Turkmenistan to give an update on its intentions to invite independent authorities, including international monitors, to visit prisons.

55. Azerbaijan praised Turkmenistan for its commitment to the universal periodic review and its active engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. It noted with appreciation the measures it had taken to promote gender equality in public administration.

56. Bangladesh commended Turkmenistan for having adopted in 2016 a new Constitution, with a focus on safeguarding human rights in line with its international human rights obligations. It also noted its adoption of laws and policy measures to combat corruption and human trafficking and those related to the education, housing and health sectors.

57. Belarus welcomed the adoption by Turkmenistan of a number of policy documents to ensure a holistic approach to the protection of human rights, including the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. It noted the efforts Turkmenistan had made to combat human trafficking, including the implementation of the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons.

58. The delegation of Turkmenistan, referring to cooperation with special procedure mandate holders, noted that dialogue had been held with some mandate holders in 2017 and 2018. The Government had provided required information to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances related to pending cases. The Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights had responded positively to the Government's intention to welcome a visit to Turkmenistan in the period 2018–2019.

59. In December 2017, the Deputy Foreign Minister had met with a regional representative of OHCHR to discuss on how to intensify further the cooperation with OHCHR on promoting human rights.

60. The new Constitution had provided equal rights and opportunities to women and men. A law adopted in 2015 had established further measures to ensure gender equality. In total, 24 per cent of all decision-making posts were held by women. Women had accounted for 25 per cent of total members of Parliament elected in 2018, and the Speaker of Parliament was also a woman.

61. The strategic tasks set out in the National Plan of Action on Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020 were directly geared to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. One of the goals of the Plan was to change and eradicate stereotypes leading to discrimination against women, through public awareness-raising campaigns, as well as training for and workshop discussions among various professional groups. A nationwide media campaign had been launched to raise the awareness of society of gender equality and the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant legislation. Gender equality had been included in a training programme for civil servants, targeting mid-level officials.

62. A national action plan on the rights of the child was being developed by the Interdepartmental Commission with expert input from UNICEF. The plan had been developed based on recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also included measures to address child labour, in line with the recommendations of ILO.

63. The new Constitution contained a provision on the prevention of forced labour and the worst forms of child labour. The Government had not received any complaints on forced labour. It continued its cooperation with experts of ILO. The amendments to the relevant legislation had been made to raise the minimum employment age from 16 to 18. Turkmenistan envisaged developing indicators relating to target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

64. Access to drinking water had improved as a result of the efforts made under the general programme for the supply of clean drinking water to population centres for the period up to 2020, under the close monitoring of the Ministry of Health and the medical industry. According to 2016 data, the proportion of the population living in households using improved drinking water sources was 83 per cent. Such access was almost universal in urban areas, at 98 per cent, while the proportion in rural areas was 73 per cent. The proportion of the population that had access to improved sanitation was consistently high, at 99 per cent.

65. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection was actively implementing the programme to improve the employment of persons with disabilities. The Ministry had established a quota for the employment of persons with disabilities as well as for families with children with disabilities. In 2016, the President had adopted a decree containing a plan of action for the period 2017–2020 to ensure the full realization of the right to work for persons with disabilities. According to figures from the State pension fund, the employment of persons with disabilities had increased.

66. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had taken an active participation in the development and implementation of a number of national action plans, including on health, human rights and gender equality. A new law on NGOs had been adopted in 2014, under which foreign citizens or non-citizens could be founding members. The 2017 law on charity

activities permitted donors to carry out charity activity individually or through the establishment of charity foundations.

67. A new law on freedom of religion and religious organizations had been adopted in 2016 to define the requirement for the establishment and functioning of religious communities and organizations. The law defined instances when an organization could be closed by a court decision. Eight new religious organizations had been registered since 2016. No complaints had been registered on the violation of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

68. Belgium welcomed the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights. It expressed concern about the persistence of gender violence and about conditions in detention facilities, particularly the use of torture. It emphasized that civil society played an important role in ensuring human rights.

69. Brazil commended Turkmenistan for the adoption in 2016 of the Constitution with strengthened provisions on human rights, the establishment of the position of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the adoption of national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking. It encouraged Turkmenistan to align its law on citizenship with international standards on statelessness.

70. Bulgaria acknowledged the adoption of the new Constitution and national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking. It encouraged Turkmenistan to effectively implement new policies and to ensure independence of the newly established Commissioner for Human Rights.

71. Burundi welcomed measures taken by Turkmenistan to improve the human rights situation in the country, including by establishing the Commissioner for Human Rights and adopting the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It also welcomed efforts to ensure the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, including in access to employment and to education.

72. Canada encouraged Turkmenistan to strengthen protections for civil society and women and to combat enforced disappearances. It expressed concern about difficulties faced by civil society in operating effectively due to legal restrictions.

73. Chile noted the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson, the adoption in 2016 of a new Constitution and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. With reference to a recommendation it had made in the previous cycle, Chile was concerned at the lack of progress in ensuring the right to freedom of expression.

74. China noted that Turkmenistan was committed to the achievement of sustainable development and the improvement of the living standards of its people. Turkmenistan had also made progress in the fields of the rule of law, protecting the rights of women and children and persons with disabilities and combating trafficking in human beings.

75. Cuba noted the efforts of Turkmenistan in strengthening its democratic principles and legal framework, developing civil society and ensuring the realization of economic and social rights.

76. Czechia appreciated the adoption of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020, the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2016–2020 and the Ombudsperson Act. It encouraged Turkmenistan to translate those Plans into concrete improvements in practice.

77. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the accession by Turkmenistan to additional international instruments during the reporting period and measures it had taken to strengthen its human rights legal framework and institutional capacity and to improve the quality of life and education.

78. Denmark noted that Turkmenistan had accepted a recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture during the second universal periodic review and stressed that the dialogue with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture remained highly valuable to all States working to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

79. Djibouti commended Turkmenistan for its adoption in 2016 of a new Constitution that introduced the multiparty system, integrated many provisions of international treaties to which Turkmenistan was a party and enshrined the rights and freedoms of citizens.
80. Egypt welcomed new constitutional provisions protecting fundamental rights and freedoms plus amendments to domestic legislation guaranteeing respect for human rights standards. It further expressed appreciation for the National Action Plan for Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020.
81. Estonia encouraged Turkmenistan to accept and facilitate the requested visits by special procedure mandate holders and extend an open invitation to all of them to visit the country. It remained concerned about laws and practices that restricted the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, including restrictions on Internet access and online content.
82. France regretted that institutional changes like the establishment of the Ombudsperson had remained without effect since 2013. Moreover, the elections of 25 March did not seem to indicate any improvement in terms of democracy.
83. Georgia welcomed the strengthening of national human rights institutions through the establishment of the position of Commissioner for Human Rights, in line with the recommendations of the second universal periodic review. It noted the accession of Turkmenistan to a number of international treaties, including the Paris Agreement.
84. Germany welcomed the adoption of national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking. It remained concerned about the continuing deterioration regarding freedom of expression. It condemned the persistent use of torture and ill-treatment in prisons and the many enforced disappearances.
85. Greece noted with appreciation a number of legal measures taken to promote human rights, including the new Constitution, adopted in 2016, the adoption of national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating against violence, as well as amendments to the Criminal Code introducing a definition of torture.
86. Honduras noted the inclusion of a section of human rights in the new Constitution, adopted in 2016, and the establishment of the position of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
87. Iceland welcomed the Constitutional provision recognizing equal rights for women and men but expressed concerns about continued underrepresentation of women in the public and private sectors and the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.
88. India noted with appreciation the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking, the establishment of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the constitutional provisions guaranteeing social security for persons with disabilities.
89. Indonesia commended Turkmenistan for the adoption in 2016 of the Ombudsman Act. It noted the National Action Plan on Human Rights in Turkmenistan for the period 2016–2020 and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for the period 2016–2018 and expressed its hope that those action plans would contribute to improvement of the human rights situation.
90. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the Government for the adoption and implementation of the National Socioeconomic Development Programme for the period 2011–2030, the revised National Presidential Programme on the Improvement of Social and Living Conditions and the Presidential Programme on Socioeconomic Development for the period 2018–2024.
91. Iraq commended the Government for the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2016–2020, and the submission of reports to various treaty bodies, which had demonstrated the country's commitment to the respect of human rights.
92. Ireland encouraged Turkmenistan to ensure an effective and independent functioning of the Office of the Ombudsperson, in accordance with the Paris Principles. It noted that,

although the National Action Plan on Human Rights included commitments to receiving visits by special procedure mandate holders, no such visits had taken place yet. It remained concerned about restrictions on freedom of association.

93. Italy commended Turkmenistan on the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating trafficking in persons.

94. Kazakhstan expressed hope that the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking would contribute to the improvement of human rights situation in the country. It noted with appreciation the establishment of the position of Commissioner for Human Rights and the engagement of Turkmenistan with the United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

95. Kyrgyzstan noted the extended list of human rights in the new Constitution and the efforts that had been made to protect the rights of women and eliminate the worst form of child labour.

96. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Turkmenistan on the adoption of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020 and the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2016–2020.

97. Latvia noted measures that had been taken by the Government and encouraged it to take further efforts in fulfilling human rights obligations.

98. Malaysia commended Turkmenistan on its efforts directed at socioeconomic development. It noted measures that had been taken by the Government to raise the awareness of government officials, young people, local authorities, law enforcement bodies and other relevant stakeholders in the field of human rights by holding regular talks, meetings and round-table discussions.

99. Maldives commended Turkmenistan for its implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and for adopting the State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act.

100. Mexico commended Turkmenistan for the adoption in 2016 of the new Constitution, which included human rights provisions. It called upon the Government to ensure full compliance of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights with the Paris Principles. It also noted measures that had been taken to ensure gender equality.

101. Montenegro called upon the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and to improve cooperation with the special procedures. It encouraged the Government to take additional measures to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles.

102. Morocco welcomed the adoption in 2016 of the new constitution and the adoption of the Ombudsperson Act. It welcomed the Government's efforts to protect and promote human rights.

103. Nepal noted the adoption in 2016 of the Ombudsperson Act, which enabled the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights. It believed that strengthening that institution and implementing the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons would enhance the protection and promotion of human rights.

104. Oman noted of the achievements Turkmenistan had made in all areas of human rights. It welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution, which included a section on human rights.

105. The delegation of Turkmenistan stated that the Government had cooperated with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and OSCE on the access of international organizations to places of detention. Representatives of ICRC and of diplomatic missions and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, had carried out visits to penitentiary institutions.

106. The delegation reported on various measures that had been taken to improve conditions of detention, including prison cells and sanitary and hygiene facilities, and bring them into line with relevant standards and to protect the health of persons deprived of liberty. Turkmenistan has allocated more than \$67 million for construction work and repairs to facilities in the prison system and for the acquisition of medical equipment in the period 2011–2017. Following the adoption in 2011 of the Penal Enforcement Code, the laws and regulations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs had been revised to bring them into line with the Code.

107. On the subject of enforced disappearances and unlawful detention, such imprisonments had in fact been carried out on the basis of the court judgments by which individuals had been found guilty of committing criminal offences under domestic legislation. Such imprisonments could not be described as enforced or as involuntary disappearance, as the individuals in question had regular contact with their family members.

108. Courts had not recorded any complaints or instances of torture or ill-treatment since the amendment to the Criminal Code had been introduced in 2012 to incorporate an article criminalizing torture. The Ministry of the Interior had introduced measures to prevent torture or inhuman treatment in penitentiary institutions.

109. The right to freedom of movement, including the right to leave the country, has been enshrined in the new Constitution and protected by national laws. The temporary restrictions on the right of citizens to freedom of movement had been introduced under the provisions of relevant laws in order to protect national security and public order, and to ensure the safety and health of citizens.

110. The State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act had introduced protection measures against harassment, sexual violence, abduction and trafficking of women and men. There was no specific offence of domestic violence in domestic legislation. However, domestic legislation criminalized acts that harmed the dignity and physical integrity of all individuals, including women, as well as acts of humiliation or cruelty and acts that inflicted various types of bodily injury. One of the objectives of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for the period 2015–2020 had been to examine national legislation in the light of international standards and best practices and to develop proposals on how to improve further domestic legislation to effectively prevent domestic violence.

111. Responding to calls for the ratification of human rights instruments, the delegation explained that Turkmenistan considered it important to carry out preparatory work prior to such ratifications, by analysing domestic legislation and studying the feasibility of legal reforms.

112. The delegation did not share the view expressed during the interactive dialogue that media outlets critical of the Government faced serious restrictions in the country. The statistics on the use of the Internet and social media indicated that there were no limitations on the access by the population to the Internet.

113. The delegation thanked the participants of the interactive dialogue for their active input and reassured them that all of the recommendations that had been put forward would be examined thoroughly and used to improve further the human rights situation in the country.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

114. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Turkmenistan and enjoy the support of Turkmenistan:

- 114.1 Carry on ratifying international human rights treaties (Azerbaijan);
- 114.2 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);

- 114.3 Accelerate its efforts towards acceding and fully implementing the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Philippines);
- 114.4 Consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders based on the international commitments assumed by the Government (Paraguay);
- 114.5 Extend a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders (Portugal);
- 114.6 Extend a standing invitation to the human rights special procedure mandate holders and mechanisms (Honduras);
- 114.7 Consider strengthening cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including receiving the visits requested so far as a first step towards issuing a standing open invitation (Ukraine);
- 114.8 Continue constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);
- 114.9 Continue constructive cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Cuba);
- 114.10 Accede to UNESCO (Oman);
- 114.11 Ensure that the Office of the Ombudsperson complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Qatar);
- 114.12 Take further steps to ensure the effective independence of the Office of the Ombudsperson in accordance with the Paris Principles and strengthen its mandate by ensuring that it has the competence to consider complaints and monitor detention facilities (Republic of Moldova);
- 114.13 Strengthen the Office of the Ombudsperson to enable its accreditation as an A-status national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 114.14 Guarantee the efficiency and the independence of the national institution for the protection and promotion of human rights in conformity with the Paris Principles, and adopt a national plan of action for children (Spain);
- 114.15 Build up the status of the national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);
- 114.16 Continue to strengthen the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights (India);
- 114.17 Continue efforts to ensure the smooth functioning and full independence of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson), in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);
- 114.18 Continue efforts to strengthen the capacity and independence of its national human rights institution, namely the Ombudsperson of Turkmenistan (Indonesia);
- 114.19 Continue to strengthen the newly constituted national human rights institution and other relevant mechanisms (Nepal);
- 114.20 Strengthen the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance with the International Obligations Undertaken by Turkmenistan in the Field of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, in order that this Interdepartmental Commission ensures the follow-up on the implementation of recommendations received from international bodies (Paraguay);

- 114.21 Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to sustainably implement the policies that promote and protect the rights of women and children (Philippines);
- 114.22 Continue to implement the national action plans with special attention to the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020 (Bangladesh);
- 114.23 Implement the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020 and the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2016–2020 (Cuba);
- 114.24 Establish a monitoring mechanism for the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2015–2020, the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for the period 2016–2018 and the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2016–2020 (Greece);
- 114.25 Publish swiftly the results of the 2012 national population and housing census (Uruguay);
- 114.26 Accelerate the approval and implementation of the national census on health care and the status of women in the family (Uruguay);
- 114.27 Continue to bring national human rights legislation into line with international human rights standards (Azerbaijan);
- 114.28 Reform the relevant legislation to bring it into line with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by simplifying the legal and procedural requirements for the registration of civil society organizations and by minimizing reporting obligations to authorities (Ireland);
- 114.29 Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with international obligations of Turkmenistan (Morocco);
- 114.30 Protect the constitutional principle of equality of rights and freedoms of citizens and fulfil the country's international commitments on gender equality (Cuba);
- 114.31 Take further efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Uzbekistan);
- 114.32 Enhance its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Egypt);
- 114.33 Maintain economic development dynamics and reforms with a view to improving the well-being of the population (Azerbaijan);
- 114.34 Follow-up and implement the National Socioeconomic Development Programme for the period 2011–2030 based on a participatory approach that includes all local stakeholders (Morocco);
- 114.35 Continue its efforts to promote economic and social sustainable development to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 114.36 Fight against corruption and strengthen the capacity of institutions to effectively detect such practice, investigate cases of corruption and prosecute the perpetrators (Algeria);
- 114.37 Provide information to the families of persons in custody who previously have been reported as having disappeared, including their current places of detention and details of custodial sentences (Sweden);
- 114.38 Introduce domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape, into the Criminal Code as a specific crime, and create an independent mechanism for receiving victims' complaints (France);

- 114.39 Include domestic violence in the Criminal Code as a separate offence (Kyrgyzstan);
- 114.40 Continue to take further steps for the strengthening of judicial system (Tajikistan);
- 114.41 Establish clear criteria for the appointment, tenure and removal of judges, as part of national efforts to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and due process (Mexico);
- 114.42 Align legislation and legal practices with international standards in order to ensure fair and effective treatment by the judicial system, especially for young people (Djibouti);
- 114.43 Respect the right to a fair trial and revoke prosecutors' authority to hold convicted persons indefinitely by a simple written decision even though they have served their sentences (France);
- 114.44 Provide access to international monitoring mechanisms in all places of detention in line with international standards (Belgium);
- 114.45 Sustain its commitment in the promotion of religious tolerance, as well as its efforts in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);
- 114.46 Respect the rights of Christians to exercise their freedom of religion and belief without fear of imprisonments or other forms of persecutions (Poland);
- 114.47 Take further efforts to improve the enjoyment of the right to opinion and expression (Iraq);
- 114.48 Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons (Nigeria);
- 114.49 Continue to enhance Turkmenistan's regulation against human trafficking (Indonesia);
- 114.50 Work in partnership with the International Labour Organization to eliminate forced labour in connection with State-sponsored cotton harvesting (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 114.51 Ensure comprehensive implementation of the programme for enhancing the employment sector and creating new jobs in Turkmenistan for the period 2015–2020, as well as the action plan for its implementation, above all, in order to ensure maximum level of employment for persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);
- 114.52 Continue consolidating its social policies, especially in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to continue to improve the quality of life of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 114.53 Continue its efforts to protect the rights of women and children and to provide them social protection (Yemen);
- 114.54 Take effective measures to eliminate and further prevent violations of economic, social and cultural rights (Djibouti);
- 114.55 Increase the ongoing efforts to enhance the population's living standards and welfare, so that they pave the way further for human rights protection (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 114.56 Continue its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country by strengthening its national policies and programmes with the aim of further improving the well-being of its people (Malaysia);
- 114.57 Make additional efforts to provide access to potable water and adequate sanitary conditions, particularly in rural areas (Serbia);

- 114.58 Fully implement its programme for the supply of clean drinking water to the population, and share good experiences in this regard (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 114.59 Continue to further strengthen its efforts to safeguard the right to health with an enhanced allocation of resources in this area (Bangladesh);
- 114.60 Continue efforts to promote health care in rural areas (Egypt);
- 114.61 Continue to strengthen logistical and material provision for health-care institutions, particularly in rural areas (Belarus);
- 114.62 Continue efforts to develop infrastructure for health facilities and maternal and child health-care centres and to implement a strategy for the development of the production of medicine with the aim at expanding access for all citizens to quality health care (Saudi Arabia);
- 114.63 Address the insufficient number of family doctors, nurses and midwives particularly in rural areas, the lack of medicines and the need to improve the skills of medical personnel (Serbia);
- 114.64 Continue to take measures to expand public access to quality services in health care and education (Uzbekistan);
- 114.65 Continue efforts to promote access to education, especially in rural areas (Senegal);
- 114.66 Continue to adopt positive measures to better protect its people rights to education, health care and others (China);
- 114.67 Continue to take appropriate measures for providing quality education and health care (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 114.68 Enhance capacity-building to improve the education and health-care systems in the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 114.69 Continue its efforts to promote gender equality, with a particular focus on positive measures designed to increase women's participation in public and political life (Republic of Moldova);
- 114.70 Abolish gender stereotypes and gender-based discrimination in its Labour Code (Republic of Korea);
- 114.71 Continue to promote women's rights, to ensure that they are fully respected (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 114.72 Promote and advance gender equality to counter stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and society at large through public awareness, education and training programmes (Iceland);
- 114.73 Continue assistance and promotion on women's empowerment in both the public and private sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 114.74 Revise provisions in the Labour Code that justify restrictions on women's employment opportunities based on gender stereotypes (Iceland);
- 114.75 Strengthen legislative measures and public policies designed to promote and protect the rights of women and to facilitate their empowerment (Bulgaria);
- 114.76 Strengthen preventive measures for dealing with violence against women, including by collecting data and raising awareness about gender equality and women's rights (Slovenia);
- 114.77 Accelerate its efforts towards eliminating violence against women, and consider adopting relevant legislation (Georgia);
- 114.78 Adopt legislation specifically criminalizing violence against women, ensure thorough investigations and provide appropriate training to the police,

the judiciary and other relevant stakeholders on how to address such cases (Canada);

114.79 Take concrete measures to fight gender-based violence, including within families, such as legislative measures and plans of action following consultations with civil society (Belgium);

114.80 Adopt a comprehensive law, covering all forms of violence against women, including a national action plan in this area (Kyrgyzstan);

114.81 Adopt legislation specifically criminalizing violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence, and ensure its effective implementation (Latvia);

114.82 Adopt a national action plan for children, taking into account the concluding observations of 2015 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Portugal);

114.83 Continue cooperation with UNICEF to develop a national plan of action plan on the interest of children (Belarus);

114.84 Adopt a national action plan on the interest of children in Turkmenistan (Kyrgyzstan);

114.85 Continue its efforts together with UNICEF to improve ways and means of protecting children's rights by implementing the programme on the development of the juvenile justice system (Maldives);

114.86 Strengthen its policy on prevention and combat of child labour, and on the full guarantee of the rights of child, with special attention to children without parental care (Tajikistan);

114.87 Introduce a clear ban on the sale of children and on child prostitution and pornography in the relevant law (Kyrgyzstan);

114.88 Discontinue the practice of temporary placement of children in institutions and develop and implement a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy (Bulgaria);

114.89 Expand the scope of the curriculum on basic life skills, in order to comprehensively address issues related to sexuality, protect adolescents from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases and prepare them for adult life (Honduras);

114.90 Involve persons with disabilities in the implementation of the plan of action for the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities (Qatar);

114.91 Expand programmes and initiatives to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities (Maldives);

114.92 Bring existing legislation fully in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (Brazil);

114.93 Harmonize its legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in particular consider adopting a social and human rights-based model for disability (Bulgaria);

114.94 Repeal laws that allow the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities mainly due to their disability and to the potential danger posed by them (Spain);

114.95 Improve the situation of persons with disabilities (Iraq);

114.96 Develop measures to preserve ethnic, cultural and religious diversity and strengthen intercultural dialogue in society (Russian Federation);

114.97 Consider the possibility of opening cultural centres in the country for representatives of non-titular nationalities residing in Turkmenistan in order to

allow them to be able to fulfil their educational and cultural needs (Kazakhstan);

114.98 Ensure that non-citizens have access to education, housing, health care, employment and birth registration without discrimination (Algeria).

115. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Turkmenistan and have been noted by Turkmenistan:

115.1 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Portugal);

115.2 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law and ensure adequate and effective protection against discrimination on any ground (Montenegro);

115.3 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that ensures adequate and effective protection against all forms of discrimination, containing a list of all grounds for discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras).

116. The following recommendations will be examined by Turkmenistan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:

116.1 Ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet party, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Honduras);

116.2 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal) (Iraq) (Montenegro) (Ukraine) (Portugal);

116.3 Adhere to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);

116.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal) (Burundi) (Denmark) (Greece) (France) (Chile) (Ukraine) (Portugal);

116.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Norway) (Afghanistan);

116.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended (Estonia);

116.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish a prevention system of regular visits to places of detention (Poland);

116.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish an independent mechanism for monitoring of all places of detention (Australia);

116.9 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish a national system that independently and regularly monitors and inspects all places of detention without prior notice (Czechia);

116.10 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and allow full

- access of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to places of detention in accordance with ICRC principles (Germany);
- 116.11 Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, enabling the independent inspection of prisons and detention centres (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 116.12 Adhere to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);
- 116.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal) (Ukraine);
- 116.14 Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);
- 116.15 Intensify internal examinations related to the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);
- 116.16 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia) (Philippines);
- 116.17 Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);
- 116.18 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);
- 116.19 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 116.20 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Republic of Korea) (Austria);
- 116.21 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Estonia);
- 116.22 Continue the efforts to adhere to the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court (Paraguay);
- 116.23 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, as previously recommended (Latvia);
- 116.24 Accept the authority of the Committee against Torture to receive and examine individual communications and sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);
- 116.25 Consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as well as the ratification of the Rome Statute, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);

116.26 Facilitate a visit by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Norway);

116.27 Collaborate with special procedure mandate holders, namely the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances, welcoming them, when requested, in the country (Switzerland);

116.28 Develop a schedule of visits of all United Nations special procedure mandate holders who have asked to visit the country and take measures to facilitate such visits (Chile);

116.29 Authorize the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council to visit Turkmenistan, in accordance with the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period 2016–2020 (France);

116.30 Permit visits from all United Nations special procedure mandate holders who have requested to visit the country (Ireland);

116.31 Allow the United Nations special procedure mandate holders to visit the country (Italy);

116.32 Cooperate fully with the United Nations, to facilitate all pending requests for visits by the Human Rights Council's special procedure mandate holders and to respond favourably and constructively to the views of the Human Rights Committee (Austria);

116.33 Respond positively to pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider the extension of a standing invitation to all mandate holders, as previously recommended (Latvia);

116.34 Strengthen cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and issue a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Czechia);

116.35 Eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Czechia);

116.36 Take measures to fight all forms of discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation (Italy);

116.37 Consider the adoption of a general law against discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity, or any other form of intolerance (Uruguay);

116.38 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Iceland);

116.39 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex and put an end to the stigmatization of homosexuality, bisexuality, intersexuality and transsexuality (Uruguay);

116.40 Ensure that no form of discrimination or violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity is tolerated and that all such cases are properly investigated and sanctioned (Iceland);

116.41 Take the necessary measures to establish, in its national legislation, a comprehensive legal framework of adequate and effective protection against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and also repeal the criminalization of consensual sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Argentina);

116.42 Investigate and hold accountable officials suspected of committing torture or other serious human rights violations or abuses (United States of America);

- 116.43 Intensify efforts to combat cases of torture and forced disappearances (Italy);
- 116.44 Study a possibility of establishing a national preventive mechanism to prevent torture (Kazakhstan);
- 116.45 Investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially all allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and — to this end — establish an independent, accessible and effective complaints mechanism for all places of detention (Canada);
- 116.46 Put an end to the practice of arbitrary and incommunicado detention and forced disappearance, and provide information on the whereabouts of all people who have disappeared in prison (Chile);
- 116.47 Abolish incommunicado detention, and ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into all cases of alleged disappearances (Czechia);
- 116.48 End the practice of enforced disappearances and ensure that following prompt, thorough and impartial investigations perpetrators are brought to justice, and provide effective remedies to victims and their families, including reparations (Canada);
- 116.49 Tackle the issue of enforced disappearances, by, inter alia, acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Netherlands);
- 116.50 Respect its international commitments on enforced disappearance, and become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);
- 116.51 Investigate and sanction all reported cases of enforced disappearances and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- 116.52 Investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention as well as torture, ill-treatment and holding individuals incommunicado in prisons (Poland);
- 116.53 Allow unhindered access to enforced disappeared persons by international monitoring bodies, including United Nations representatives and the special procedure mandate holders, and provide information on their whereabouts (Norway);
- 116.54 Provide those who are imprisoned, including in the Ovodan-Depe and Seydi prisons, access to independent inspectors and other visitors and permit those visitors to conduct private and fully confidential interviews with prisoners, consistent with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (United States of America);
- 116.55 Inform relatives and the public about the whereabouts of all persons who have been under arrest and whose fate is currently unknown, and ensure access to lawyers of their choice (Germany);
- 116.56 Grant independent international mechanisms full access to all places of detention, thoroughly investigate allegations of enforced disappearances and torture and improve detention conditions in line with the international standards (Austria);
- 116.57 Improve the conditions of detention, in line with international norms and rules, namely the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela rules) (Switzerland);
- 116.58 Establish a system of regular and independent monitoring of places of detention, and facilitate effective monitoring by independent organizations (Estonia);

- 116.59 Adopt the necessary measures in order to recognize the right to conscientious objection to compulsory military service (Argentina);
- 116.60 Take concrete measures to protect and respect individuals' rights to exercise freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression, including on the Internet, social media and in traditional media, including by preventing harassment of journalists operating in the country (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 116.61 Reform government practices that restrict freedoms of religion or belief, expression and movement to ensure that individuals are not punished for expressing their opinions or beliefs (United States of America);
- 116.62 Take measures to fully realize freedom of expression, including on the Internet and social media (Republic of Korea);
- 116.63 Effectively implement the provisions of the Media Law that safeguard media pluralism and prohibit censorship (Estonia);
- 116.64 Ensure freedom of expression and access to information, and stop interfering with access to the Internet as well as censorship of online and print media (Germany);
- 116.65 Ensure unobstructed Internet access and cease censorship of online media, including of foreign websites and communication applications. This includes the repeal of all provisions from the Law on the Regulation of the Development of the Internet and the Provision of Internet Services that require State licencing of the activities of Internet providers (Netherlands);
- 116.66 Respect the right to freedom of expression, allow the media to operate without any interference and provide an enabling and protective environment where journalists and activists can exercise their human rights without reprisals (Austria);
- 116.67 Adopt measures, including through amending relevant laws, to ensure that the Internet, television, radio and print media serve as a channel for receiving and transmitting independent public interest information in the country (Slovakia);
- 116.68 Include a ban on censorship in the Constitution and expand the definition of the ban on censorship in the Law on Mass Media to include every person who makes public communications, in accordance with its international obligations (Sweden);
- 116.69 Decriminalize defamation, and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);
- 116.70 Cease blocking access to Internet sites and social media networks (Sweden);
- 116.71 Take positive steps to protect and promote the freedoms of expression and assembly, including by enforcing legal provisions that safeguard media pluralism and prohibit censorship and by ending forced mobilization of residents for participation in government-organized mass events (Australia);
- 116.72 Revise laws and practices in order to guarantee the full enjoyment of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and ensure that any restrictions comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia);
- 116.73 Guarantee fully the rights of freedom of association, assembly and expression, and of the press (Spain);
- 116.74 Strengthen efforts to guarantee the respect for fundamental freedoms, including by simplifying the procedures for legal registration of NGOs and religious groups (Italy);

- 116.75 Release immediately and unconditionally all persons imprisoned as a result of peaceful exercise of freedom of expression, collection and distribution of information, and journalistic activity (Norway);
- 116.76 Take concrete steps to ensure the protection of journalists, media personnel and human rights defenders against attacks, and prosecute those responsible for such acts, as previously recommended (Estonia);
- 116.77 Ensure that human rights defenders and journalists are able to conduct their work and activities freely online and offline, and release all prisoners of conscience (Slovenia);
- 116.78 Recognize publicly, protect and support, notably with administrative measures, the work of human rights defenders, including women and young human rights defenders (Belgium);
- 116.79 Stop threats to, physical attacks against and arbitrary detention and conviction of human rights defenders and individuals for exercising their freedoms of expression and assembly (Norway);
- 116.80 End the arbitrary detention and harassment of, as well as travel bans and other acts of intimidation against journalists, media workers and human rights defenders (Germany);
- 116.81 Release all human rights defenders and journalists, and guarantee an independent media free from undue influence or interference (Czechia);
- 116.82 Revise laws and policies to ensure an enabling environment for human rights defenders, an independent media and a robust civil society (Canada);
- 116.83 Amend legislation, including the Constitution and the Law on Migration, by including explicit legal guarantees that establish the right to exit freely from and return to Turkmenistan, in accordance with international law (Sweden);
- 116.84 Take immediate legal action to reverse the policy on restricting the rights of everyone to leave the country and return to their own country (Norway);
- 116.85 Establish a time-bound national plan of action to address forced labour in cotton farming and abolish mandatory production and sanctions for non-compliance with cotton quotas (Chile);
- 116.86 Grant fair and adequate compensation to owners and residents of Ashgabat who were evicted from their properties (Togo);
- 116.87 Review the provisions regarding compulsory HIV testing contained in the 2016 Act on controlling the spread of the disease caused by HIV, while providing early diagnosis and treatment to mothers living with HIV and their infants, in the light of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the relevant special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Brazil);
- 116.88 Ensure that the implementation of measures to prevent HIV does not lead to discriminatory practices and is in line with international human rights obligations (Mexico);
- 116.89 Introduce legal measures that prohibit forced and child labour (Poland);
- 116.90 Remove criminal penalties restricting freedom of opinion and expression (Mexico).
117. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Turkmenistan was headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Mr. Vepa Hajyyev, and composed of the following members:

- Ambassador Atageldi Haljanov, Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
 - Ms. Kumush Gurbanniyazova, Head of Department of the Ministry of Adalat (Justice) of Turkmenistan;
 - Mr. Geldimyrat Veliyev, Senior Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan;
 - Ms. Selvi Sysoyeva, Senior Specialist of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan;
 - Mr. Amanmyrat Kerimov, Senior Prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's Office of Turkmenistan;
 - Ms. Shemshat Atajanova, Head of the Department of the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan;
 - Ms. Suray Seyilbayeva, Attaché of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.
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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Burkina Faso

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the languages of submission only.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Burkina Faso was held at the 2nd meeting, on 7 May 2018. The delegation of Burkina Faso was headed by the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion, Besolé René Bangoro. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Burkina Faso.
2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Burkina Faso: Spain, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Burkina Faso:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BFA/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BFA/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BFA/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay was transmitted to Burkina Faso through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Burkina Faso stated that the national report had been drafted, in an inclusive and participatory manner, by a multisectoral committee bringing together government actors and civil society organizations.
6. In order to implement the 138 recommendations accepted during the second review cycle, a national action plan that also took account of treaty body recommendations had been adopted for 2014–2017. As at 31 December 2017, the implementation rate for the accepted universal periodic review recommendations stood at 92 per cent. In fact, only three of the recommendations had not been carried out fully, namely those concerning the adoption of a child protection code, the ratification of the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the ratification of the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. However, the process of implementing the three recommendations had begun.
7. In the legislative sphere, between 2013 and 2017, 32 new human rights laws had been adopted, and eight international human rights instruments had been ratified.
8. With regard to the independence of the justice system, national consultations on justice held in March 2015 had provided an opportunity to undertake a thorough evaluation of the functioning of the system and had resulted in the adoption of the National Pact for Justice Reform, the aim of which was to consolidate the rule of law. Significant progress had subsequently been made with regard to certain judicial cases that had been pending for many years.
9. In addition, amendments made to the Constitution in 2015 had strengthened the independence of the judiciary. The Supreme Council of Justice was no longer presided over

by the Head of State, but by the First President of the Court of Cassation. Moreover, the right to bring cases related to the constitutionality of laws before the Constitutional Court had been extended to all citizens.

10. A legal aid fund had been set up and operationalized in 2016. An increase in the resources allocated to the fund had made it possible to raise the number of beneficiaries from 69 in 2016 to 239 in 2017.

11. The reform process was ongoing, with reviews of the Constitution, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Personal and Family Code under way. The major developments in that context concerned the enshrinement in the Constitution of certain economic, social and cultural rights such as the rights to food and adequate housing, the abolition of the death penalty, the definition of marriage, and the harmonization of the age of civil majority and the marriageable age at 18 years for women and men.

12. In terms of public policies, the National Economic and Social Development Plan for 2016–2020 sought to boost per capita income cumulatively as a means of reducing poverty, building human capacity and meeting basic needs in a fair and sustainable social environment. As part of the Plan's implementation, several sectoral policies covering various fields of human rights had been adopted.

13. As for the sectoral policy on justice and human rights, the vision of Burkina Faso was to have, by 2027, a justice system that was credible, accessible to all and respectful of the rule of law, such that women and men were guaranteed the exercise of their rights in the interests of a peaceful and united nation.

14. At the institutional level, the High Council for Reconciliation and National Unity, the National Observatory on Religious Affairs, the National Observatory for the Prevention and Management of Community Conflicts and the High Council for Social Dialogue had all been established. In addition, the mandates of the Supreme Council of Justice, the State Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority and the National Human Rights Commission had been strengthened.

15. With respect to the National Human Rights Commission, major innovations had been introduced to bring it into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) pursuant to a law adopted in 2016. Its members had been sworn in in March 2018, and the Commission would be allocated its budget in 2018.

16. Concerning freedom of the press, Burkina Faso had been the top-ranked country in francophone Africa since 2015 according to the World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders.

17. In the field of health, the number of doctors per 100,000 inhabitants had grown from 4.8 in 2014 to 6.3 in 2016 and, with a view to fostering a community-based approach to health care, 17,668 community workers had been recruited in 2017 to cover all the villages in the country.

18. Continuing its efforts to combat female genital mutilation, Burkina Faso had adopted a new national strategic plan for 2016–2020 to promote the elimination of the practice of excision, which had helped to lower the average prevalence among girls aged under 15 years, punish the perpetrators of the practice and improve the care afforded to victims.

19. Regarding access to drinking water, the most recent statistics available pointed to an improvement. In rural areas, the rate of access had increased from 63.5 per cent in 2013 to 66.2 per cent in 2017. In urban areas, it had risen from 86.2 per cent to 91.7 per cent over the same period.

20. Notwithstanding the efforts made, the country was facing economic and financial constraints that were having a negative impact on the effective enjoyment of human rights. Moreover, Burkina Faso had repeatedly been the target of terrorist attacks that had claimed numerous civilian and military victims and had caused significant material damage. In order to provide an effective response to the situation, the National Intelligence Agency and the National Defence and Security Council had been created. In addition, the country had

strengthened its subregional and international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. In that respect, it was participating actively in the Group of Five for the Sahel (Sahel G-5). Its cooperation with neighbouring countries had also been bolstered with the aim of joining forces in the fight against terrorism. The Government ensured that all measures taken to counter threats were in line with its international human rights commitments.

21. Furthermore, to build the resilience of the population, an emergency programme for the Sahel region for 2017–2020 had been launched in 2017 to increase access to basic social services.

22. The atmosphere of insecurity, exacerbated by the lack of State resources, had favoured the development of local security initiatives in some regions of the country. The serious violations of fundamental rights and freedoms and of the principles of the rule of law committed by the people behind those initiatives were, however, regrettable, even though their actions had often been applauded by the population. To meet that challenge, a decree defining the modalities for public participation in the implementation of neighbourhood police forces had been adopted in November 2016. In addition, training and awareness-raising activities were carried out to induce those forces to incorporate respect for human rights in their work and improve their collaboration with defence and security forces. Legal proceedings had been instituted against persons suspected of ill-treatment. From 2015 to 30 April 2018, national courts had prosecuted 151 individuals, of whom 52 had been sentenced to fines and/or imprisonment for various offences.

23. Lastly, Burkina Faso was firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and counted on the assistance of its partners and the support of the international community.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

24. During the interactive dialogue, 87 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

25. Belgium welcomed the abolition of the death penalty for children and the efforts made to improve the status of women and children. It remained concerned about violence against them and the extremely high rate of child marriage.

26. Benin congratulated Burkina Faso for the various initiatives taken to improve the human rights situation and for agreeing to implement its recommendations following its previous review.

27. Botswana welcomed the ratification by Burkina Faso of treaties, including the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the National Action Plan for Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Values for the period 2012–2022, the Action Plan to Implement the National Gender Policy and the 2015 National Pact for Justice Reform.

28. Brazil commended Burkina Faso for its adoption of the National Action Plan for Human Rights and the enhancement of other normative and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights.

29. Bulgaria noted with appreciation the developments in the normative and institutional framework and praised Burkina Faso for the implementation of the 2015 Act on prevention and punishment in respect of violence against women and girls.

30. Burundi welcomed the legislative and institutional measures adopted by Burkina Faso since its previous review as an expression of the determination of the Government to implement the accepted recommendations and improve the human rights situation.

31. Cabo Verde welcomed the legislative and institutional measures that Burkina Faso had taken over the previous five years, including the act on compulsory universal health insurance and the law on the prevention and suppression of violence against women and girls.

32. Canada commended Burkina Faso for its adoption of legislation for the protection of human rights defenders and the prevention, repression and redress of violence against women and girls.
33. The Central African Republic noted that, despite progress, particularly in the fight against terrorism both at the national and the international levels, many challenges and concerns remained.
34. Chile congratulated Burkina Faso for its establishment of a national human rights commission, its adoption of public policies to empower women and for the eradication of child marriage and female genital mutilation.
35. The Republic of the Congo welcomed the strengthening by Burkina Faso of the normative framework of human rights and the protection of children, women and the establishment of a universal health insurance scheme.
36. Costa Rica welcomed the establishment by Burkina Faso of a national observatory for the prevention of torture and the law on the elimination of discrimination against women. It expressed concerns about the persistence of the death penalty in the legislation of Burkina Faso.
37. Côte d'Ivoire commended Burkina Faso for its efforts to implement the recommendations of the previous review cycle, despite the challenging circumstances related to the country's crisis and the terrorist threat.
38. Cuba welcomed the adoption by Burkina Faso of the law on the prevention, repression and redress of violence against women and girls and the implementation of the new national plan for economic and social development.
39. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted the efforts Burkina Faso had made to implement the recommendations accepted in the previous review cycle. It raised issues on the legal age of marriage and the right of inheritance for a married woman after the death of the husband.
40. Denmark welcomed efforts by Burkina Faso to improve detention conditions despite long delays in the adjudication of criminal cases and prison overcrowding. It stressed that, despite legal provisions to protect women, they remained subject to considerable discrimination.
41. Djibouti welcomed measures Burkina Faso had taken, particularly those relating to the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, the Supreme State Control and Anti-corruption Authority and the National Human Rights Commission.
42. Egypt commended Burkina Faso for its the diligent efforts to improve the human rights situation on the political, civil, economic and social levels. It also welcomed the efforts it had made to improve the situation of women and persons with disabilities.
43. Equatorial Guinea welcomed the approval in 2014 by Burkina Faso of the National Civil Registry Strategy, whose application had contributed to the creation between 2014 and 2017 of 5,000 new secondary registration centres to facilitate the registration of births.
44. Ethiopia commended Burkina Faso for having identified priority areas in the promotion and protection of human rights and having transformed the normative and institutional frameworks and public policies for the promotion and protection of human rights.
45. France welcomed the significant progress Burkina Faso had made in the fields of democracy and the rule of law since the insurrection of October 2014, the elections that had been held in 2015 and 2016 and the draft constitution, which provided for the abolition of the death penalty.
46. Gabon welcomed the measures Burkina Faso had taken aimed at combating terrorism, protecting vulnerable groups, supporting women and girls who were victims of violence, promoting women's access to land and eradicating harmful practices and discrimination against people accused of witchcraft.

47. Georgia appreciated the strengthened cooperation of Burkina Faso with treaty bodies. It welcomed the law establishing a national human rights commission.
48. Germany commended Burkina Faso for the improvements it had made regarding the democratization process and fighting corruption, but remained concerned about continuing violence against women and girls and about the death penalty.
49. Ghana commended Burkina Faso for the legislation it had passed on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and torture. It welcomed the independent Commissions of Enquiry established to bring perpetrators to justice and give reparations to victims. It appreciated the measures taken on terrorism.
50. Haiti referred to the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020, the 2015 National Pact for Justice Reform, the decree No. 2016-311 on free health care, and the consultation process on the Constitution reform.
51. Honduras welcomed the establishment by Burkina Faso of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Values, Act No. 061-2015/CNT on violence against women and girls, and the gender equality action plan.
52. Iceland welcomed the impact that had been made by the national strategy for the acceleration of girls' education. It was concerned about the high rate of early pregnancy and that many girls discontinued their schooling to support their families.
53. India welcomed the establishment by Burkina Faso of the National Human Rights Commission. It noted the growing unemployment rate among young people and women in urban areas. It welcomed the legislation that had been passed on a universal health system and on violence against women and girls.
54. Indonesia appreciated the establishment by Burkina Faso of the national action plan to implement the recommendations made in the previous review, as well as the national strategies on child labour for the period 2018–2025, on girls' education and on inclusive education.
55. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Burkina Faso for the improvements it had made regarding the fight against the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and corruption. It encouraged it to take further measures to combat human trafficking, particularly of women and children.
56. Iraq commended Burkina Faso for the efforts it had made to implement the recommendations made in the previous review, as well as its adoption of the national human rights action plan for the period 2012–2022 and measures to defeat terrorism.
57. Ireland was concerned by the reports of threats, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and by incidents of female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages and domestic violence. It urged Burkina Faso to adopt a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign on those matters and to work towards a comprehensive child code.
58. Israel commended Burkina Faso on its human rights commitment, despite its political turmoil and the challenges in the Sahel region, including terrorism.
59. Italy appreciated the adoption by Burkina Faso of specific laws that prevented and repressed violence against women and protected human rights defenders.
60. Kenya commended Burkina Faso on its national human rights action plan, the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the promotion of civic values and the adoption of the national gender policy.
61. Lesotho welcomed the legislation Burkina Faso had passed to combat the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, torture and violence against women and girls. It noted the ratification by Burkina Faso of key international human rights instruments. It called upon States to provide technical and financial assistance to Burkina Faso.

62. Luxembourg saluted the legal improvements Burkina Faso had made on women's rights and the fact that the new draft constitution reinforced human rights and abolished the death penalty. It referred to allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention centres, detention conditions, the high maternal mortality rate and early and forced marriages.

63. Madagascar highlighted the ratification by Burkina Faso of international treaties and its adoption of laws that addressed violence against women and girls, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It encouraged Burkina Faso to make further efforts towards achieving universal health coverage. Madagascar invited the international community to support Burkina Faso in implementing the recommendations.

64. Maldives noted the legislative measures Burkina Faso had taken on women rights and gender equality. It welcomed the adoption of the law to prevent violence against women and girls, and commended Burkina Faso for its National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Young Girls for the period 2017–2026.

65. Mali noted various laws in Burkina Faso on the sale of children, the prevention of torture and on ensuring national reconciliation, as well as the progress that had been made in the area of employment. It encouraged the international community to support Burkina Faso.

66. Mauritania noted the adoption by Burkina Faso of various laws, including the review of the Constitution. It invited the international community to support Burkina Faso.

67. Mauritius commended Burkina Faso for the measures it had taken to eradicate poverty and improve access to water and sanitation, the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020, and efforts to improve the health sector, for the economic empowerment of women and for universal access to education, and to ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities.

68. Mexico acknowledged the law Burkina Faso had passed to establish a national human rights commission and national strategies to promote girls' education and inclusive education. It welcomed the law on the rights of persons with disabilities.

69. Montenegro noted the adoption by Burkina Faso of a comprehensive set of measures to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for human rights protection, in particular the national action plan for human rights, and encouraged the Government to ensure its effectiveness.

70. Mozambique commended Burkina Faso for, inter alia, the adoption of various social and economic development frameworks and the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission.

71. The delegation of Burkina Faso took the floor again to note that Burkina Faso had made progress in the field of education over the previous two decades thanks to the implementation of a range of programmes, including the Programme for Strategic Development in Basic Education for 2012–2021, the National Strategy for the Acceleration of Girls' Education for 2012–2021 and the National Strategy for the Development of Inclusive Education for 2016–2020. The implementation of the programmes had helped to increase the gross enrolment rate for girls by 6.7 per cent between 2013 and 2016. In addition, the gross enrolment rate for girls in 2017 was significantly higher than that for boys, as were their completion rate for primary education and their success rate for the technological and vocational baccalaureate. Burkina Faso intended to consolidate its achievements through a number of proposed actions.

72. Regarding the protection of children and other vulnerable persons from human trafficking, the delegation of Burkina Faso mentioned the establishment of a child labour monitoring system, the development and approval of 45 indicators to monitor and protect children, and the draft strategy to combat the worst forms of child labour that was pending adoption by the Council of Ministers. To combat child marriage, Burkina Faso had taken steps such as adopting the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage for 2016–2025, establishing a multisectoral platform for the prevention and elimination of child marriage and carrying out a project to combat child marriage for 2016–

2019. In addition, the Personal and Family Code was being reviewed to set the marriageable age at 18 years for both sexes.
73. As for the protection of persons living with HIV/AIDS, a law had been adopted to protect them from all forms of discrimination.
74. Concerning violence against women, a law had been adopted in 2015 on the prevention, punishment and reparation of violence against women and girls, and support for victims. Moreover, a national strategy for the protection and empowerment of girls had been adopted in 2017. Modules on sexual harassment and reproductive health had been included in the training given to pupils and teachers, and campaigns had been organized to raise awareness in that regard.
75. In terms of health infrastructure, there were 1,760 health and welfare centres throughout Burkina Faso.
76. The country was on the path to abolishing the death penalty, and awareness-raising activities had been conducted. Furthermore, the abolition of the death penalty was enshrined in the new draft Constitution and the new draft Criminal Code.
77. Regarding the follow-up given to the recommendations accepted during the previous review cycle, a national mechanism had been set up to monitor the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, as had a national mechanism for drafting the reports to be submitted to international bodies.
78. The protection of human rights defenders was guaranteed in the Freedom of Association Act and the Act on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders adopted in 2017.
79. In addition, Burkina Faso had ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the National Observatory for the Prevention of Torture and Related Practices had been established.
80. To combat terrorism, the country had created special police and gendarmerie units and a judicial centre specialized in the punishment of terrorist acts.
81. The Government had produced a draft strategic prison plan aimed at improving prison conditions by 2022. Concerning detainees' access to a fair trial, steps had been taken to strengthen defence rights.
82. The delegation of Burkina Faso indicated that the Koglweogo were not militias but security forces established by local communities to help to fight organized crime. Rights violations resulting from their actions were always punished, and efforts were still ongoing to ensure better supervision of their activities.
83. Namibia commended Burkina Faso for its adoption of several initiatives relating to human rights, such as the National Economic and Social Development Plan, despite the social and economic crisis it had experienced.
84. Nepal welcomed initiatives Burkina Faso had taken on curbing corruption, preventing torture, protecting the rights of children and the elderly and respecting the role of human rights defenders. It encouraged the Government to make the National Human Rights Commission fully functional.
85. The Netherlands welcomed the adoption by Burkina Faso of a law on human rights defenders and encouraged the Government to implement it and continue its efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders.
86. The Niger welcomed the strengthening by Burkina Faso of its legislative and institutional framework on human rights. It also welcomed its establishment of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020 to enhance the effective enjoyment of human rights.
87. Nigeria noted with satisfaction the efforts Burkina Faso had made to strengthen its institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and commended it for its adoption of a number of legislations in that regard.

88. The Philippines welcomed the strengthening by Burkina Faso of the domestic framework on human rights and lauded it for its ratification efforts. It noted persistent reports that the practice of early and forced marriage was still prevalent in the country.
89. Portugal welcomed the establishment by Burkina Faso of the National Human Rights Commission and the legislative and institutional initiatives it had adopted to eliminate discrimination against women.
90. Qatar noted the adoption by Burkina Faso of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020, the programmes aimed at promoting decent work for women and young people and the efforts it had made to promote inclusive education.
91. Rwanda noted the progresses Burkina Faso had made in combating discrimination and violence against women and encouraged it to enhance such efforts. It further encouraged Burkina Faso to expedite efforts aimed at the de facto abolition of the death penalty.
92. Saudi Arabia commended Burkina Faso for the adoption of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020 and the adoption of programmes aimed at the promotion of human rights.
93. Senegal commended Burkina Faso for its efforts to promote human rights and welcomed its adoption of laws to create the National Human Rights Commission and the National Observatory for the Prevention of Torture.
94. Serbia commended Burkina Faso for the measures it had taken to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle. It also commended it on the adoption of numerous laws and the establishment of several new institutions related to human rights.
95. Slovenia acknowledged progress made by Burkina Faso in relation to the rights of the child. However, it expressed concern over the very high rates of early pregnancies as well as reports of child, early and forced marriages.
96. South Africa welcomed the positive developments Burkina Faso had made since the previous review, including the constitutional developments to ensure the justiciability of human rights, the adoption of a national strategy for the acceleration of girls' education and the establishment of the Reconciliation and National Unity Commission.
97. Spain commended Burkina Faso for the adoption of a law on the protection of human rights defenders and a law on violence against women and girls, as well as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.
98. The State of Palestine commended Burkina Faso for its adoption of most of the recommendations from the second review cycle, its efforts to develop a national human rights action plan and to strengthen civic values, and its national policy for gender equality.
99. The Sudan appreciated the efforts Burkina Faso had made to protect and promote human rights, despite the challenges it faced, notably through cooperation with Human Rights Council mechanisms and the adoption of international treaties and laws that protected human rights.
100. Sweden welcomed the legal reforms Burkina Faso had made in favour of women's and girls' human rights, which nevertheless remained restricted during to ineffective implementation thereof and harmful social practices.
101. Switzerland welcomed the adoption by Burkina Faso of the National Strategy to Prevent and Eradicate Child Marriage and its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. However, it expressed its concern about reported cases of torture during custody periods.
102. Togo congratulated Burkina Faso on the progress it had made in human rights despite its difficult security context with threats from terrorist groups. It linked its success to the full or partial implementation of many recommendations made in the previous review cycle.

103. Tunisia welcomed the efforts Burkina Faso had made to deploy previously accepted recommendations and, in particular, its positive efforts in the fight against terrorism, promotion of education and protection of the rights of the child.
104. Turkey welcomed in particular the creation by Burkina Faso of a ministry dedicated to human rights, its ratification of international instruments and promotion of human rights outreach and increased access for girls to education, despite the many dropouts.
105. Uganda commended Burkina Faso for its commitment to improving human rights in the country, yet encouraged it to adopt a comprehensive approach to implementing that commitment to ensure the equitable redistribution of its benefits.
106. Ukraine commended Burkina Faso on its human rights achievements since the previous review cycle. However, it was concerned about reports of torture and killing by vigilante groups, violence against women and children and life-threatening and excessively long detentions without trial.
107. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the efforts Burkina Faso had undertaken to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms despite the difficulties the Government faced.
108. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland called upon Burkina Faso to announce the comprehensive abolition of the death penalty. It encouraged it to tackle violence against women, combat human trafficking, ensure access to education and counter radicalization.
109. The United States of America commended Burkina Faso for having worked to re-establish democratic governance but urged it to investigate reports of extrajudicial killings, torture and human rights abuses by vigilante groups. It was concerned by life-threatening prison conditions.
110. Uruguay welcomed the progress Burkina Faso had made on the rights of the child, birth registration and curtailing early enforced marriage.
111. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the health care provided in Burkina Faso for women and young children, as well as family planning programmes and its strategy for accelerated growth and sustainable development. It invited the international community to offer assistance and cooperation to Burkina Faso.
112. Viet Nam welcomed the progress Burkina Faso had made in promoting and protecting human rights through various socioeconomic development programmes, as well as its adoption of major human rights-related legislative texts and the creation of relevant new institutions.
113. Yemen commended Burkina Faso for its adoption of multiple legislative acts in relation to independence of justice and combating impunity, along with its action plans that reflected recognized international standards and its successful programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
114. Zambia welcomed the clear commitment of Burkina Faso to the promotion and protection of human rights as reflected by the fact that in 2016 it had implemented 75 per cent of the recommendations from the previous review cycle, of which it had accepted 138.
115. Zimbabwe noted the adoption by Burkina Faso of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020 and its legislation to protect the rights of specific groups, guaranteeing judicial independence and punishing perpetrators of human rights violations.
116. Afghanistan valued the legislative steps Burkina Faso had taken to protect the rights of specific groups, guarantee judicial independence and punish perpetrators of human rights violations within a general framework of promoting and protecting human rights.
117. Algeria welcomed the adoption by Burkina Faso of a national action plan on implementing the recommendations from the previous review cycle, a national strategy for promoting and protecting young girls and its policy of free health care for young children and pregnant women.

118. Angola recognized the work Burkina Faso had done to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and encouraged it to pursue its efforts in promoting the National Economic and Social Development Plan for the period 2016–2020 on implementing the second review cycle and treaty body recommendations.

119. Argentina congratulated Burkina Faso for having approved national programmes dedicated to women and young people, youth employment in the national education system and youth socio-professional integration. It noted its efforts to combat human rights violations, eradicate child marriage and female genital mutilation.

120. Australia commended Burkina Faso for having developed a national programme to end child marriage and improve access to health care, including services dedicated to women and girls. It remained concerned by the high rate of female genital mutilation despite its criminalization.

121. Austria welcomed the key elements of the draft constitution of Burkina Faso that bolstered the protection of human rights, especially by abolishing the death penalty and protecting women's rights. It looked forward to the swift adoption of those changes.

122. Azerbaijan noted the legislative changes Burkina Faso had adopted and its institutional reforms to enhance human rights, especially the provision of free legal counselling. It highlighted the Government's attachment to combating corruption and promoting transparency in the administration of justice.

123. Morocco noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the High Council for Reconciliation and National Unity and the National Council for Children and welcomed the development of public policies for the protection of women's rights.

124. The delegation of Burkina Faso said that the country was making efforts to improve the human rights situation and remained open to welcoming special procedures mandate holders who wished to visit and who made a request accordingly. Burkina Faso took note of the recommendations addressed to it and requested technical support in such areas as building the capacity of stakeholders and public institutions to implement a human rights-based approach, strengthening national capacities to establish a system of data collection and analysis adapted to national circumstances and, lastly, improving and implementing an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations made during the third cycle of the universal periodic review.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

125. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Burkina Faso and enjoy the support of Burkina Faso:**

125.1 Maintain a positive dynamic of ratification of international treaties (Azerbaijan);

125.2 Continue cooperation with the special procedures (Morocco);

125.3 Continue the work with Human Rights Council bodies to protect and implement human rights (State of Palestine);

125.4 Move forward with the translation of review recommendations into the national languages to ensure their wide public dissemination (Israel);

125.5 Continue to mobilize resources and seek the necessary international support to enhance its capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations (Nigeria);

125.6 Intensify its efforts in the implementation of pending recommendations (Nigeria);

125.7 Consider the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for drafting reports, follow-up and implementation of

recommendations, in line with the elements of the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Uruguay);

125.8. Finalize and adopt the new constitution to further safeguard the human rights of its people (Botswana);

125.9. Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 061-2015 / CNT with the participation of different social stakeholders (Canada);

125.10. Implement the law creating the National Human Rights Commission and allocate it the necessary resources, according to the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);

125.11. Provide the National Human Rights Commission with sufficient financial and human resources, in line with the Paris Principles, in order to ensure its autonomy and independence (Georgia);

125.12. Make the National Human Rights Commission fully operational and provide it with sufficient financial and human resources, in line with the Paris Principles (Germany);

125.13. Continue to provide sufficient resources to the National Human Rights Commission to enable it carry out its mandate (Ghana);

125.14. Strengthen efforts to enable its national human rights institution to comply with the Paris Principles, including by ensuring it has sufficient resources and the independence of the institution (Indonesia);

125.15. Empower fully the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya);

125.16. Take the measures necessary to fully align the National Human Rights Commission with the Paris Principles (Mauritania);

125.17. Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is fully operational and adequately funded (Namibia);

125.18. Strengthen further the capacities of the National Human Rights Commission in order for it to be fully in line the Paris Principles (Niger);

125.19. Take the measures necessary to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission fully complies with the Paris Principles (Portugal);

125.20. Accelerate the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission (Senegal);

125.21. Continue to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission to enable it to carry out its mission more effectively (Zimbabwe);

125.22. Strengthen the role of the National Human Rights Commission to bring it into line with the Paris Principles (Morocco);

125.23. Continue to strengthen further national human rights institutions and mechanisms (Nepal);

125.24. Allocate sufficient human and financial resources towards a sustained implementation of the domestic normative framework on human rights (Philippines);

125.25. Continue its effort to build the capacity of the public institutions to adopt a human rights approach in the formulation and implementation of public policies in all sectors (Yemen);

125.26. Continue to implement measures to achieve equitable redistribution of the benefits of growth (Cuba);

- 125.27 Design programmes to safeguard the rights of small farmers and promote their economic and social development with the necessary support (Mexico);
- 125.28 Continue efforts to support small-scale and subsistence farmers in rural areas (South Africa);
- 125.29 Continue the implementation of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development, broadening access to services for all (Sudan);
- 125.30 Ensure full respect for human rights by the defence and security forces, including in their struggle against terrorist groups (France);
- 125.31 Continue the harmonization of domestic legislation with the obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);
- 125.32 Undertake immediate and effective action to prevent all forms of torture and ill-treatment and to ensure thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all acts of torture committed by government officials, with the aim to end impunity (Netherlands);
- 125.33 Ensure that all reports of alleged torture and ill-treatment are investigated by an independent and impartial body and the perpetrators prosecuted, and ensure that victims receive full redress and rehabilitation (Zambia);
- 125.34 Intensify efforts for addressing allegations of torture by law enforcement agents (Ukraine);
- 125.35 Make operational its National Observatory on the Prevention of Torture as soon as possible (Switzerland);
- 125.36 Operationalise the National Observatory for the Prevention of Torture (Uganda);
- 125.37 Pursue efforts to regulate self-defence groups, sometimes accused of torture, violence and racketeering (France);
- 125.38 Conduct thorough investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment in detention centres (Luxembourg);
- 125.39 Redouble efforts to improve the living conditions and treatment of detainees (France);
- 125.40 Improve the conditions of prisoners (Iraq);
- 125.41 Combat prison overcrowding and take all measures necessary aimed at improving detention conditions (Luxembourg);
- 125.42 Implement a comprehensive plan to end overcrowding in prisons (Zambia);
- 125.43 Investigate all allegations of human rights abuses by self-defence groups and bring suspected perpetrators to justice (Ghana);
- 125.44 Investigate credible allegations of human rights abuses and violations, and hold those responsible accountable (United States of America);
- 125.45 Investigate allegations of physical abuse by jailers and hold the perpetrators accountable, as efforts to improve access to justice will reduce prison overcrowding (United States of America);
- 125.46 Enhance measures to guarantee the furthering of judicial investigations and sanctioning the perpetrators of all human rights violations (Argentina);

- 125.47 Adopt the measures necessary to strengthen investigations and sanctions against the perpetrators of child marriage and female genital mutilation (Argentina);
- 125.48 Bolster mechanisms to prevent human rights violations by security forces (Austria);
- 125.49 Take measures to promote human rights training for security forces (Italy);
- 125.50 Strengthen security and civil protection (Sudan);
- 125.51 Ensure that security force operations within the framework of combating extremism and terrorism are implemented in strict compliance with human rights (Canada);
- 125.52 Take concrete measures to put an end to lengthy detention of non-convicted detainees (Denmark);
- 125.53 Continue its efforts to implement the 2010–2019 national justice policy (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 125.54 Continue efforts to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (France);
- 125.55 Strengthen measures to ensure access to justice, including by increasing the number of judicial venues (France);
- 125.56 Pursue efforts to implement the national justice policy for the period 2010–2019, to improve prisons management (Kenya);
- 125.57 Intensify efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during its previous review that relate to ensuring the independence and effectiveness of the judicial system (Sweden);
- 125.58 Take all measures to ensure that human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance and insecurity and that all allegations of such are subject to prompt, impartial and thorough investigation (Ireland);
- 125.59 Adopt legal and political measures to combat human trafficking, in particular in refugee women and girls (Honduras);
- 125.60 Step up its endeavour to combat trafficking in children and women and to strengthen the existing anti-trafficking policies (Indonesia);
- 125.61 Deploy further efforts to stop trafficking in women and children (Iraq);
- 125.62 Effectively apply national legislation on human trafficking and on child labour and exploitation (Switzerland);
- 125.63 Develop and implement an anti-trafficking strategy (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 125.64 Continue its efforts to implement the national employment policy and establish a universal social security system (India);
- 125.65 Put in place inclusive public policies on access to employment, targeting women (Senegal);
- 125.66 Promote opportunities for decent jobs for women and young people (Sudan);
- 125.67 Pursue efforts to promote youth employment and employment of women, particularly through professional training (Viet Nam);

125.68 Improve access for women to the formal labour market, in particular through temporary special measures, and standardize inspections to combat labour exploitation (Algeria);

125.69 Continue to promote economic and social development with the view to eliminating poverty and further improving the quality of life of the population (Djibouti);

125.70 Continue its efforts to increase the rate of access to sanitation in rural and urban areas (Equatorial Guinea);

125.71 Promote national policies and programmes related to poverty eradication, development and malnutrition, which will contribute to the promotion of human rights in the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);

125.72 Redouble efforts to defeat poverty, notably among rural women (Iraq);

125.73 Increase actions aimed at improving access of the population to drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Spain);

125.74 Pursue steps to expand access of the population to high-quality health-care and education services (Djibouti);

125.75 Consider allocating adequate financial resources to improve health-care infrastructure, midwife training, maternal health and access to emergency obstetric care (Ghana);

125.76 Adopt legal and political measures to ensure that women and adolescents have access to sexual education and to free and women- and adolescent-friendly reproductive health-care services (Honduras);

125.77 Proceed with the implementation of the national social security scheme with a view to providing health services to all without discrimination (Israel);

125.78 Continue efforts to fight maternal mortality and ensure that care centres are provided with necessary equipment and medication (Luxembourg);

125.79 Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health services (Australia);

125.80 Continue efforts to ensure universal access to quality health services (Saudi Arabia);

125.81 Increase women's awareness of the Reproductive Health Act and ensure access to health services for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS (South Africa);

125.82 Improve access for all to high quality health care and education services (Viet Nam);

125.83 Continue implementing the Plan for Strategic Development of Basic Education and the Literacy Plan, to undertake further measures to improve the quality and infrastructure of schools, particularly in rural areas (Bulgaria);

125.84 Further continue the implementation of access to education for all through the policy aimed at strengthening infrastructure in urban and rural areas (Ethiopia);

125.85 Continue its efforts in enhancing access to education for all, particularly access to secondary and higher education, including in the rural areas (Indonesia);

- 125.86 Continue its efforts to uphold human rights education through training, capacity-building and awareness-raising (Mauritius);
- 125.87 Strengthen efforts to ensure universal access for all to quality education (Saudi Arabia);
- 125.88 Make effective the provision of free primary education (Togo);
- 125.89 Expand human rights education and awareness-raising activities (Nepal);
- 125.90 Step up its efforts to heighten human rights awareness among its people (Philippines);
- 125.91 Continue efforts to educate and raise public awareness in the field of human rights (Qatar);
- 125.92 Strengthen and expand its human rights education and awareness-raising activities (Zimbabwe);
- 125.93 Proceed with the national education policy with a view to introducing human rights into school curricula (Angola);
- 125.94 Continue the promotion of human rights education through the publication of international instruments for the benefit of the social and professional groups (United Arab Emirates);
- 125.95 Include human rights concepts in school curricula (United Arab Emirates);
- 125.96 Redouble efforts to implement the Law on violence against women, and ensure sufficient financial resources so that victims can have access to justice and psychosocial rehabilitation measures (Chile);
- 125.97 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, within a comprehensive strategy, including clear goals and timelines (Brazil);
- 125.98 Establish a sufficient number of drop-in centres and shelters for women and girl victims of violence (Gabon);
- 125.99 Adopt a comprehensive strategy and action plan for prevention of all forms of violence against women, with a particular focus on the eradication of customary practices that are harmful to women, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriages (Montenegro);
- 125.100 Redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, in particular combat the practice of female genital mutilation (Uruguay);
- 125.101 Implement the strategy, legislation and national plans to combat practices that violate the rights of women, especially female genital mutilation and forced marriage (Cabo Verde);
- 125.102 Continue to work to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Congo);
- 125.103 Redouble efforts towards eradication of female genital mutilation (Mozambique);
- 125.104 Intensify its actions in favour of women's rights, by seeking the full implementation of the National Plan against Female Genital Mutilation, ending forced or early marriages, eradicating violence against women and achieving a greater presence of women in political and economic life (Spain);
- 125.105 Continue the efforts necessary to combat female genital mutilation (Egypt);

125.106 Redouble its efforts to eradicate the practice of genital mutilation of women and girls and other harmful practices, and share with other countries its best practices in the implementation of its legal framework to address the root causes of this practice (Honduras);

125.107 Continue efforts to raise awareness and develop new intervention strategies to eradicate genital mutilation and early and forced marriages (Gabon);

125.108 Strengthen measures aimed at combating gender discrimination in all spheres and to adequately protect women from all forms of violence and abuse, including female genital mutilation, marital rape, domestic violence and social exclusion for alleged witchcraft (Namibia);

125.109 Strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, in particular child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation (Rwanda);

125.110 Eradicate female genital mutilation and bring perpetrators to justice (Sweden);

125.111 Ensure that people who continue to practice female genital mutilation are held accountable and prosecuted as a means to deter perpetrators (Australia);

125.112 Ensure implementation of the National Plan against Female Genital Mutilation and feminine excisions, and bolster efforts to prevent such practices, by raising awareness among various communities in the country, in particular with regard to tribal leaders, religious leaders, men and boys, as well as by raising awareness and education of girls (Austria);

125.113 Take urgent measures to put an end to harmful traditional practices to women, such as forced marriages (Costa Rica);

125.114 Consider amending its laws with a view to protecting those at risk of early and forced marriages and ensure that all victims have access to effective remedies and reparations (Philippines);

125.115 Promote the adoption of measures aimed at protecting the rights of women and intensify the efforts to combat early and forced marriages of children and early pregnancies (Italy);

125.116 Take all measures to fight early and forced marriages (Luxembourg);

125.117 Materialize its intention to harmonize the legal age of marriage to 18 years in order to combat early forced and child marriages (Canada);

125.118 Amend the Individuals and Family Code to set 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls (Zambia);

125.119 Raise to the age of 18 years the minimum age for marriage (Central African Republic);

125.120 Increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years and request that legal guarantees be granted for the succession of a married woman after the death of her husband in order to combat discrimination against women (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

125.121 Allocate sufficient resources to programmes to combat early pregnancies and to support young mothers to stay in school (Mexico);

- 125.122 Effectively address the high prevalence of early pregnancies by working with children, parents, teachers and other stakeholders (Slovenia);
- 125.123 Set the minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys at 18 years and take firm legal action to prevent children from becoming victims of child, early and forced marriage (Sweden);
- 125.124 Continue efforts deployed to fight against early marriage and take all measures necessary to ensure the full deployment of programmes in this area (Tunisia);
- 125.125 Promote outreach among local communities, traditional and religious authorities, as well as among parents, to ensure the universal implementation of a minimum age for marriage at 18 years for both men and women (Austria);
- 125.126 Guarantee access to justice for women and girl victims of violence as well as to elderly women accused of witchcraft, ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned (Gabon);
- 125.127 Redouble the efforts to effectively protect women accused of witchcraft (Congo);
- 125.128 Reinforce the policies and programmes designed to combat the social exclusion of people accused of practising witchcraft (Israel);
- 125.129 Continue actions to reduce social and gender inequality and the advancement of women as an active agent of development (Cuba);
- 125.130 Strengthen its action to fight discrimination against women (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 125.131 Continue efforts to ensure education for girls and gender equality in the education sector (Tunisia);
- 125.132 Continue its commitment to improve access for women to the formal labour market with acceptable working conditions and sufficient salaries for a decent life (Turkey);
- 125.133 Continue to adopt measures that promote gender parity in socioeconomic activities (Angola);
- 125.134 Develop a mediation mechanism for alternative dispute resolution concerning women's equal rights in inheritance and access to land to complement the formal justice system (Denmark);
- 125.135 Continue efforts to improve women's participation in decision-making (Egypt);
- 125.136 Continue to advance the economic empowerment of women and girls through the creation of income-generating activities (Ethiopia);
- 125.137 Dismantle barriers to girls' access to education by raising awareness of the importance of education for women (Iceland);
- 125.138 Develop and implement concrete policies to ensure that women and girls have easy access to justice, education and health-care systems, particularly those with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 125.139 Continue efforts to improve the participation of women in decision-making process (Maldives);
- 125.140 Develop and implement a strategy to guarantee that women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, have effective access to justice, political and public life, education, income-generating activities and health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services (Mexico);

- 125.141 Invest additional efforts into fighting all kinds of discrimination, in particular against women, by implementing special national strategies and concrete legal frameworks (Serbia);
- 125.142 Continue efforts in the area of promoting the rights of women by formulating and implementing strategies that protect women and girls, notably with disabilities, and guarantee their access to education, work and health care (State of Palestine);
- 125.143 Continue to fight discrimination against women through concrete measures and continue to fight all forms of violence, notably domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 125.144 Continue to strengthen its social programmes in favour of vulnerable groups, especially for women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 125.145 Continue to enhance the role of women in strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable development (Azerbaijan);
- 125.146 Finalize the review of the necessary legislation and complete the drafting and adoption of the Child Protection Code (Uganda);
- 125.147 Continue to fight against child trafficking (Senegal);
- 125.148 Fast-track the implementation of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage for the period 2016–2025 (Netherlands);
- 125.149 Ensure that the capacity of the National Council of Children is strengthened in order to intensify efforts aimed at combating trafficking of children, protecting children from sexual abuse, corporal punishment and the worst forms of child labour as well as to end early and forced marriages (Namibia);
- 125.150 Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the national plan and strategies to combat child marriage (Afghanistan);
- 125.151 Ensure the effective implementation of laws relating to child trafficking, child labour and the exploitation of children (Brazil);
- 125.152 Continue to make progress in protecting the rights of children, above all with regard to child labour in the mining sector and in sexual exploitation (Uruguay);
- 125.153 Strengthen the efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of children, with a focus on the right to education and the fight against child labour (Italy);
- 125.154 Ensure the enforcement of existing laws relating to child trafficking, child labour and the exploitation of children (Maldives);
- 125.155 Continue efforts aimed at combating the use of child labour (South Africa);
- 125.156 Make every effort to protect children in gold panning sites (France);
- 125.157 Guarantee the rights of children using more resources to stop their exploitation and trafficking of children (Spain);
- 125.158 Step up efforts to address prejudices against children with disabilities, to ensure that such children have access to health care and inclusive education (Bulgaria);
- 125.159 Take further measures to encourage the inclusion of students with disabilities in the education system (Qatar);
- 125.160 Step up efforts at various levels to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly through the facilitation of

their access to health care, education, employment services and public buildings (Algeria);

125.161 Ensure the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all economic and social development programmes (Austria);

125.162 Revise its regulation and administrative practices to protect the human rights of migrant workers and incorporate in its domestic law the principle of non-refoulement (Honduras);

125.163 Consider the adoption of the national strategy on migration for the period 2014–2025 in order to ensure, inter alia, the rights of migrant workers (Islamic Republic of Iran).

126. The following recommendations will be examined by Burkina Faso, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:

126.1 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile) (Costa Rica) (Spain) (Togo);

126.2 Ratify without reservation the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria);

126.3 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the ultimate aim of abolishing the death penalty in all circumstances (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

126.4 Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);

126.5 Formally abolish the death penalty, including by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

126.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal) (Spain) / consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);

126.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal) (Spain);

126.8 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

126.9 Finalize and adopt the draft law revising the Act No. 010-2009, as follow-up to the recommendations in paragraphs 135.44, 135.54 and 135.61 of the report of the Working Group on its second review cycle (Haiti);

126.10 Implement the Environmental and Social Management Plan and enforce the Mining and Environmental Code (Kenya);

126.11 Continue its efforts to abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);

126.12 Abolish officially and ultimately the death penalty (Cabo Verde);

126.13 Complete the process of abolishing the death penalty (Central African Republic);

- 126.14 Take the legislative steps necessary to abolish the death penalty (Ukraine);
- 126.15 Fully abolish the death penalty, commute all death sentences and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Germany);
- 126.16 Consider abolishing the death penalty for all crimes and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Namibia);
- 126.17 Adopt the measures necessary in order to guarantee that forced disappearances remain explicitly outside the scope of the competence of military jurisdictions in all cases (Argentina);
- 126.18 Honour its role as guarantor of security, without being replaced by self-defence groups, and ensure respect for human rights in its territory, including by the security forces, and ensure an end to impunity (Spain);
- 126.19 Strengthen the rule of law throughout the country by supporting the presence of national security forces trained in human rights and counter the presence of vigilante militias, including the Koghlwéogo (Belgium);
- 126.20 Take meaningful steps to improve civilian security and access to the formal judicial system, while building trust in formal law enforcement to prevent the proliferation of vigilante groups (United States of America);
- 126.21 Prioritize the consultation with small farmers to prevent the negative impact of agro-industrial policies on food and nutritional security, in follow-up to the recommendation in paragraph 135.24 of the report of the Working Group on its second review cycle (Haiti);
- 126.22 Ensure that evictions result from a judicial decision, with rigorous procedural guarantees in line with international norms (Togo);
- 126.23 Ensure maternal, sexual and reproductive health care for women by applying standard methods (Afghanistan);
- 126.24 Implement a strategy that ensures the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people by fighting against female genital mutilation and by reducing maternal mortality related to unsafe abortions (Belgium);
- 126.25 Amend legislation to fight and legally ban the practice of female genital mutilation, other harmful customary practices and domestic violence against women, by inter alia revising the law to define marital rape and to establish an appropriate punishment (Germany);
- 126.26 Amend the Code of Individuals and Family to guarantee that the same minimum age for marriage of 18 years applies to men and women and includes all types of marriages, including religious and traditional marriages (Australia);
- 126.27 Establish comprehensive mechanisms to fight early forced marriage by, inter alia, raising the minimum age for marriage, including for traditional marriages, for both boys and girls to 18 years and by making shelters available for people at risk (Germany);
- 126.28 Set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for women and men and for all forms of marriage (Ireland);
- 126.29 Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in the Individuals and Family Code and increase to 18 years the legal minimum age of marriage for men and women, without exception (Belgium);

- 126.30 Revise current legislation in order to explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);
 - 126.31 Step up efforts to protect the rights of persons with albinism, including through public raising-awareness campaigns (Botswana);
 - 126.32 Continue awareness-raising actions to help change negative attitudes towards persons with albinism (Central African Republic);
 - 126.33 Conduct awareness-raising activities to change negative attitudes towards people with albinism (Congo).
127. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Burkina Faso and have been noted by Burkina Faso:
- 127.1 Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures (Ukraine);
 - 127.2 Consider extending standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Georgia);
 - 127.3 Consider extending a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Rwanda);
 - 127.4 Consider the adoption of a general law sanctioning acts of discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);
 - 127.5 Adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);
 - 127.6 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Iceland);
 - 127.7 Legally prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Iceland);
 - 127.8 Criminalize the recruitment and use of persons under 18 years of age in the national armed forces (Zambia).

128. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

129. Burkina Faso pledged to submit its midterm report by 31 May 2020.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Burkina Faso was headed by the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion, H.E. Mr. Besolé René Bangoro, and composed of the following members:

- S.E.M Dieudonné W. Désiré Sougouri, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire, Représentant permanent;
- Mr Samson Arzouma III Ouedraogo, Premier Conseiller;
- Mr Emmanuel Ouali, Deuxième Conseiller;
- Mme Myriam Poussi, Conseiller juridique Conseiller Juridique;
- Mr Mathieu Bonkougou, Conseiller de presse;
- Mr Franck Ouedraogo, Attaché.
- Monsieur Maxime Lomboza Koné, Parlementaire, Président de la Commission des Affaires Générales, Institutionnelles et des Droits Humains (CAGIDH) à l'Assemblée nationale du Burkina Faso;
- Mr Germain Zong-Naba Pimé, Conseiller technique;
- Mr Yakouma Jean de Dieu Bambara, Directeur général de la Défense des Droits humains;
- Mr Adama Sawadogo, Directeur général des Etudes et des Statistiques sectorielles;
- Mme Hadjaratou Zongo/Sawadogo, Directrice générale de la Promotion civique;
- Mr Dieudonné Marie Désiré Manly, Directeur général de la Politique criminelle et du Sceau;
- Mr Dramane Sanou, Directeur du Suivi des Accords internationaux;
- Mr Bachirou Nana, Directeur de la Communication et de la Presse ministérielle;
- Mr Dramane Koussoubé, Chef de département/planification, suivi-évaluation;
- Mr Salifou Binadibé Lankouandé, Chef de Division à la Direction générale de la Garde de Sécurité pénitentiaire;
- Mr Madou Coulibaly, Administrateur des Services financiers;
- Mr Christian Nabalma, Chef du Service du suivi des accords relatifs aux droits économiques, sociaux et culturels;
- Mr Isaac Alassane Ouattara, Chargé d'études;
- Mr Harouna Kadio, Conseiller technique;
- Mr Guéhon Zigani, Chargé d'études;
- Mr Boukari Linkoné, Conseiller technique;
- Mr Abdoulaye Gandema, Directeur de la Police de Proximité;
- Mme Nathalie Kaoré, Journaliste à la Radio-Télévision du Burkina;
- Mr Halidou Badini, Caméraman à la Radio-Télévision du Burkina.



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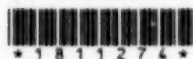
Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Cabo Verde

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Cabo Verde was held at the 3rd meeting, on 8 May 2018. The delegation of Cabo Verde was headed by the Minister for Justice and Labour, Janine Tatiana Santos Lelis. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Cabo Verde.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Cabo Verde: Angola, Germany and Republic of Korea.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Cabo Verde:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CPV/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CPV/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CPV/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Cabo Verde through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Cabo Verde stated that the Penal Code had been reviewed in 2015 in order to criminalize human trafficking, forced prostitution, supporting or facilitating prostitution of children and slavery and aggravating penalties for sexual crimes.

6. The National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship, the budget of which had been progressively augmented, had continued to serve as the public institution chiefly responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, citizenship and international law.

7. The National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan had been approved in 2017 and its purpose was to implement the national strategy for human rights education and the dissemination of a human rights culture in the public administration, especially among staff of the judicial and security sectors.

8. During the period under review, the Government had ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Government had also taken all the legislative measures necessary to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

9. Although the Government had not yet ratified the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, it had adopted a national law defining the legal regime for asylum and refugee status.

10. Concerning children's rights, the revision of the Civil Registry Code had established that children born in hospitals must be registered before being discharged from the hospital, whereas those not born in hospitals must be registered within 15 days of birth.
11. Corporal punishment had been prohibited and all situations that endangered the integrity of children and adolescents, such as maltreatment, abuse, violence or exploitation, were considered inadmissible as such.
12. The Government had taken preventive measures against child labour, including by creating a list of occupations considered too hazardous for children and adolescents to perform, in addition to supervision and accountability mechanisms.
13. The Government had established the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the National Committee to Prevent and Combat Child Labour.
14. The Government had established free, compulsory and universal education up to the eighth grade and was considering extending mandatory education into secondary school.
15. The Government had established the Education Strategic Plan (2017–2021) which aimed to consolidate preschool education. In 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers had approved Decree Law 47/2017 establishing measures for social and educational support for students during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.
16. Details were provided on the establishment of the Second National Immigration Action Plan (2018–2020), which focused on the management of migration flows, integration and institutional development. Moreover, in 2010 and 2015, the Government had established legal dispositions for the extraordinary regularization of foreign citizens, including refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. The process had resulted in the regularization of 1,458 citizens in 2010 and 1,058 in 2015.
17. The Government had granted a non-contributory monthly social pension to senior citizens who did not have their own means of subsistence.
18. Decree Law 38/2015, which had established procedures for the recruitment and selection of persons with disabilities in the public administration, had enforced a minimum 5 per cent quota for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, it contained provisions for telecommuting as an alternative in order to promote the employability of persons with disabilities and special needs.
19. In April 2015, the National Gender Equality Plan had been approved and, in 2018, a system of gender indicators related to the State budget had been created to earmark budget for gender equality purposes. Furthermore, the Second National Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence had been developed with measures to raise awareness on equality, a culture of non-violence and the deconstruction of sexist stereotypes.
20. A gender-based violence law and a gender-based violence support fund had been established; however, shelters for victims of gender-based violence had not yet been provided.
21. During the most recent municipal and legislative elections, women's representation had increased from 20.8 per cent to 23.6 per cent in legislative elections, and from 22 per cent to 26.3 per cent in municipal elections.
22. The Law on the entry, stay, exit and removal of foreign nationals in Cabo Verde included measures to combat, prevent and repress trafficking in persons and authorized temporary residence for foreign nationals who had been victims of trafficking. Moreover, the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018–2021) had been drafted to that end.
23. Concerning the rule of law, the Government had adopted measures to accelerate delayed cases. Torture, cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment or punishment were prohibited in Cabo Verde and measures had been put in place to provide recourse mechanisms to victims. The Statute of Prison Security and its Disciplinary Statute had been amended in 2014 to ensure that breaches of duty by prison guards were investigated appropriately and that those responsible were held to account. Furthermore, initial training

at the National Police Training Centre now included a module on human rights, including on the Convention against Torture.

24. Two prisons complied fully with the obligation to have separate cells for minors and adults, one prison complied partially and the fourth was not yet compliant. Furthermore, more health professionals had been allocated to prisons. Social security in Cabo Verde covered almost 40 per cent of the population and unemployment benefits were provided to families living in poverty.

25. Steps had been taken to improve the provision of health services, including the National Plan for Vaccination, which had been expanded to include vaccination for 10 different diseases. There was also a new Water and Sanitation Code, which had been approved in 2015.

26. The Housing for All programme had already assigned 1,967 homes and had determined that 5 per cent of the homes needed to be made accessible for persons with disabilities.

27. Measures to stimulate employment had been taken, including incentives for companies to recruit young people and the increase of the minimal wage from CVEsc 11,000 to CVEsc 13,000.

28. The Government had intensified the production of renewable energies and had developed strategies to manage the risks posed by climate change as a matter of priority.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

29. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

30. Azerbaijan appreciated the efforts made by the Government to implement the recommendations it had received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It commended Cabo Verde on its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and on the issuance of a standing invitation to the special procedures.

31. Benin highlighted the progress Cabo Verde had made since its previous review cycle. It commended it on the steps taken to harmonize the Penal Code with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the implementation of various international treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Benin encouraged Cabo Verde to pursue its actions and initiatives to promote equality of status and non-discrimination, particularly with regard to the protection of workers against discrimination based on ethnic origin and the creation of a national mechanism for the promotion of human rights and public freedoms.

32. Botswana welcomed the revision of the Penal Code to criminalize trafficking in persons and the sexual exploitation of children and slavery. It commended Cabo Verde for having established and made operational the Office of the Ombudsman, introduced the Human Rights Citizen Plan, ratified the Convention against Torture and for the 2016 National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents.

33. Brazil congratulated Cabo Verde for having ratified a range of international human rights instruments. It praised its efforts to establish a national preventive mechanism against torture in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It encouraged Cabo Verde to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. It highlighted the adoption of the National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence.

34. Burkina Faso noted with satisfaction the efforts Cabo Verde had made in the health-care sector in general and on maternal health care in particular, as reflected by the reduction

in the rate of maternal mortality. It urged Cabo Verde to continue its efforts in that area to improve access to health-care services and medicine.

35. Burundi praised the concrete actions Cabo Verde had taken to better promote and protect the rights of children, including the project on birth registration and the creation of a national committee to combat sexual violence and the exploitation of children and young people. It welcomed the measures it had taken to improve the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities. It commended the policies on gender equality.

36. Canada lauded the efforts Cabo Verde had made to strengthen human rights, in particular with regard to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, as one of the first African members of the Coalition for Equal Rights. It noted that, despite the lowest rate of early marriage in the region, improvements were still needed in that field, as the rate had remained unchanged since 2002.

37. Chile praised Cabo Verde on its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and urged it to establish a national preventive mechanism against torture. It stressed that the implementation by Cabo Verde of the Second National Human Rights Plan would promote the mainstreaming of human rights in all its public policies, with a view to fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. Chile expressed concern over the structural inequalities between men and women and the poverty affecting vulnerable groups.

38. China welcomed the promotion by Cabo Verde of social and economic rights and its poverty-reduction strategy. It praised it for its fight against human trafficking. It welcomed its social security coverage through its various national strategic plans to ensure its population enjoyed the rights to education, culture, health, employment and housing.

39. The Congo praised Cabo Verde for the strengthening of its legal framework in accordance with the recommendations that had been made in the second review cycle. It commended it for the establishment of the National Strategic Plan for Elderly Care. It congratulated Cabo Verde for the standing invitation it had extended to the special procedure mandate holders.

40. Côte d'Ivoire noted with appreciation the establishment by Cabo Verde of its National Plan to Combat Violence against Women (2014–2018) and the creation in 2014 of support centres for victims of gender-based violence. It also lauded the measures it had taken in the field of employment and encouraged it to integrate fully the principle of equal income for all.

41. Cuba praised Cabo Verde for the important measures it had taken in providing access to high-quality health care, for the improvements it had made in sanitary care and for having established the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2018–2021), which had ensured Cabo Verde had the mechanisms necessary to combat that scourge.

42. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the adoption by Cabo Verde of a range of legislative texts to promote human rights, including the revision of the Penal Code in order to harmonize it with the Rome Statute.

43. Denmark expressed concern over the marginalized status of the indigenous population and the discrimination and exploitative labour conditions they faced. It highlighted the situation of persons with disabilities and the need to promote, protect and ensure their full enjoyment of human rights.

44. Djibouti acknowledged measures Cabo Verde had taken to implement the recommendations it had accepted during the previous universal periodic review, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It congratulated Cabo Verde on the progress it had made in revising national legislation with a view to promoting and protecting human rights, particularly the revision of the Penal Code and the enactment of the Code on Children's Rights.

45. Egypt commended Cabo Verde on its adoption of the 2017 Second National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan and the National Gender Equality Plan, on its efforts to combat impunity and the abuse of power and on developments in the health, education and housing

sectors. It praised Cabo Verde for its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

46. Equatorial Guinea lauded the progress Cabo Verde had made in the field of social protection. It reaffirmed that the International Labour Organization (ILO) had stated in 2015 that Cabo Verde had become one of the leaders in Africa with regard to establishing a minimum level of social coverage. It praised Cabo Verde for the improvements it had made on the housing situation and the promotion of that human right through the prominent Housing for All programme.

47. Ethiopia noted with appreciation the efforts Cabo Verde had made towards changing the national and international legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights. It commended it on the 2016–2021 programme that strategized several inclusion measures, such as the development of a plan to combat poverty and social exclusion based on access to income, employment and economic development.

48. France commended the measures it had taken to improve the human rights situation in the country, in particular to combat poverty and to improve access to housing.

49. Gabon praised the steps Cabo Verde had taken in combating poverty and vulnerability and promoting gender equality. It referred to the social coverage Cabo Verde had provided to the elderly and persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities as proof of its willingness to guarantee the rights of vulnerable people.

50. Georgia appreciated the steps Cabo Verde had taken to implement the recommendations from previous review cycles. It welcomed the issuance of a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It also welcomed the efforts Cabo Verde had made to bring the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship into conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

51. Germany commended Cabo Verde on the progress it had made in protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation, in particular the revision of the Penal Code. It welcomed its efforts to improve the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Germany remained concerned by the existing discriminatory stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes in Cabo Verde concerning the roles of women and men in society, as well as the persistence of violence against women, particularly in the domestic sphere.

52. Ghana lauded the commitment of Cabo Verde to the promotion and protection of human rights in many areas, such as the Third Growth and Poverty-reduction Strategy (2012–2016), the National Migration Strategy and the adoption in 2013 of the National Immigration Strategy for Development. It noted positively the adoption of the National Plan (2014–2018) to Combat Gender-based Violence. It welcomed the Strategic Education Plan (2017–2021) that aimed to mainstream human rights, gender equality and citizenship into the school curriculum. It encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to revise basic and secondary school education programmes and curricula.

53. Honduras welcomed the important achievements Cabo Verde had made in implementing the recommendations it had accepted during its previous review. It welcomed the significant advances and achievements, in particular the adoption of the National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence (2014–2018), the establishment of support centres for victims, the Third Growth and Poverty-reduction Strategy (2012–2016). It also welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy on Migration as well as the Plan of Action and Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Strategy.

54. Hungary recognized the progress Cabo Verde had made in terms of its legal and institutional framework. It commended the Government for having made social protection a high priority on the development agenda. Major steps had been taken by the Government to reduce the level of poverty and vulnerability of the target population. It noted that the National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence (2014–2018) did not cover trafficking or the exploitation of women and children through prostitution and that the amended Penal

- Code did not punish persons who promoted the prostitution of children aged between 16 and 18 years.
55. Iceland was concerned about the extremely high rate of early pregnancy among school-age girls in Cabo Verde, and the fact that many girls in situations of poverty were forced to discontinue their schooling in order to support their families.
56. India welcomed the entry into operation of the Office of the Ombudsman to prevent the misuse of public authority and police aggression. It appreciated the announcement by Cabo Verde of its National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the establishment of the National Committee for the Prevention of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. It encouraged Cabo Verde to ensure effective implementation of the Government Programme of the IX Legislature (2016–2021) and the National Gender Equality Plan.
57. Indonesia appreciated the decision by Cabo Verde to accept the two recommendations it had made during the second review cycle, and the strengthening by Cabo Verde of measures aimed at ensuring respect for vulnerable groups. Indonesia acknowledged the progress Cabo Verde had made since the previous review and commended it on the increasingly proactive role of the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship in advancing human rights causes and the improvement of respect for and rights of vulnerable groups.
58. Iraq commended Cabo Verde for having adopted the second National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan (2017–2022) and the National Immigration Action Plan (2018–2020), as well as the issuance of the standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders.
59. Ireland welcomed the adoption by Cabo Verde of the Child and Adolescent Statute, and encouraged it to continue its efforts towards its full implementation. It was concerned that defamation remained a criminal offence and that there was no legislation on freedom of information. It appreciated the adoption of the second National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence, but shared the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the persistence of violence against women, including domestic violence, in addition to sexual abuse at school and harassment in the workplace.
60. Israel commended Cabo Verde on the serious effort it had made in following up on previous recommendations, as exemplified in its exhaustive national report. It took positive note of some major strides Cabo Verde had made in the areas of gender equality and the fight against human trafficking.
61. Italy welcomed the commitment of Cabo Verde to the universal periodic review and its efforts to promote and protect human rights. It welcomed the creation of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Child Labour, the adoption of the National Plan for Gender Equality and the adoption in 2015 of the new Penal Code, which criminalized human trafficking, forced prostitution and child prostitution.
62. Lesotho commended Cabo Verde on its efforts in promoting the right to social security through, inter alia, the provision of basic income for citizens over 60 years of age, persons with a disability and the children of persons with a disability living in poverty, thereby reducing the level of poverty and vulnerability of those target populations. It also recognized the efforts Cabo Verde had made in combating human trafficking and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman.
63. Libya commended Cabo Verde for its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and appreciated its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Those measures proved its positive engagement with the universal periodic review and its continuous commitment to improving human rights.
64. Luxembourg welcomed the fact that Cabo Verde had become one of the most advanced countries in Africa with regard to the establishment of a social protection floor. It applauded Cabo Verde for having made access to housing a priority in recent years and encouraged it to continue those efforts. It noted with concern the persistence of violence

against women and girls, particularly in the family context. Luxembourg was still concerned about the situation in the prison environment.

65. Madagascar appreciated the actions taken to promote and protect human rights, including the ratification in 2016 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the amendment of the Penal Code to strengthen the provisions on combating violence against children. It welcomed the consolidation of the rule of law through the adoption in 2016 of the third National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents, and the revision of the Penal Code to bring national legislation into line with the Rome Statute.

66. Maldives was encouraged by the numerous legislative and constitutional measures that had been taken to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable people and groups. It welcomed the 2017–2019 National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents and the decree-law that had established procedures for recruitment and selection in public administration for persons with disabilities.

67. Mexico recognized the efforts Cabo Verde had made to maintain openness to international scrutiny and fluid cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights through the submission of reports and its willingness to receive Special Rapporteurs on official visits, and commended it on its efforts to maintain and expand that collaboration. It congratulated Cabo Verde for its commitment to the review mechanism and recognized the progress it had made with respect to the previous cycle, including the adoption of national plans and the ratification of international human rights instruments.

68. Montenegro welcomed the efforts Cabo Verde had made in improving the human rights framework, namely, the full prohibition of corporal punishment, simplification of the birth registration process and improved access to preschool education. It welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, among others.

69. Morocco commended the efforts Cabo Verde had made to promote and protect human rights, particularly the appointment of the Ombudsman, the adoption of the Second National Plan for Human Rights and Citizenship, the adoption of the National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence and the reform of the Penal Code to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking.

70. Mozambique praised Cabo Verde for the strides it had made in its legal framework, particularly the revision of the Penal Code to criminalize trafficking in persons and to introduce international crimes, such as crimes of genocide. It commended Cabo Verde for its ratification of international human rights instruments and its constructive engagement with the treaty bodies.

71. The delegation of Cabo Verde stated that the Office of the Ombudsman had been in operation since 2014 and had received 492 complaints as at 2017, the vast majority of which had already been accepted.

72. Concerning strategies to combat poverty in rural areas, the Government had created a programme to fund activities and develop the farming sector. The programme, which had been created in 2014, focused on the professional capacity-building of women and guaranteed a minimum income for families in need.

73. The Government was making efforts to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission complied fully with the Paris Principles in order to guarantee its full effectiveness and independence. The National Assembly was discussing how to implement those changes.

74. The delegation reaffirmed that the Government was making significant efforts and financial commitments to improve prison conditions and new prison guards had been hired to improve prison safety and reduce the workload of existing prison guards. Work was being done in Praia prison and prisons on other islands to improve detention conditions, and steps were being taken to facilitate the social reintegration of prisoners, from education to vocational training, in order to ensure that prisoners had the option of work in order to facilitate their reintegration.

75. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Cabo Verde to gender equality, stating that 58 per cent of those who had benefited from the Housing for All project had been women and that the National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence included specific complaint and awareness-raising measures concerning the trafficking of women. The Government had set up programmes to protect victims and strengthen investigative and repressive measures. Article 148 of the Penal Code had been altered to provide further protection for children. Educational programmes had also been updated in order to promote gender equality.

76. Namibia welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman and the revision of the Penal Code to criminalize trafficking in persons and forced prostitution. It urged Cabo Verde to provide resources to the Office and to implement the provisions of the Penal Code, calling on the international community to provide its assistance.

77. Nepal lauded the steps Cabo Verde had taken to bring the National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles, to adopt the National Gender Equality Plan and the National Action Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence and to develop social protection system and initiatives to protect children's rights.

78. The Netherlands commended Cabo Verde for having issued a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders and for its efforts to ensure adequate access to reproductive health services. It expressed concern about the persistence of violence against women and prison conditions, noting that it would welcome additional steps to improve prison conditions.

79. The Niger applauded the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It welcomed efforts to adopt the Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction and the National Immigration Strategy for Development.

80. Nigeria acknowledged the efforts Cabo Verde had made to promote human rights, particularly the rights of children and persons with disabilities, and commended it on its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms and the steps it had taken to strengthen legal frameworks to combat human trafficking and to ensure the rule of law.

81. The Philippines applauded the measures Cabo Verde had taken to criminalize human trafficking, ensure redress mechanisms for victims of trafficking and align national legislation with the Rome Statute. It welcomed efforts made under the National Immigration Action Plan (2018–2020), expressing concern about the high incidence of poverty, particularly among rural women.

82. Portugal welcomed the efforts Cabo Verde had made to improve human rights, particularly the adoption of the Second National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights and measures to strengthen gender equity and equality.

83. Rwanda praised the adoption by Cabo Verde of the National Gender Equality Plan, the extension of a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders and strengthened cooperation with the treaty bodies. Noting progress in combating discrimination and violence against women, it encouraged Cabo Verde to enhance those efforts through relevant laws.

84. Senegal welcomed the efforts Cabo Verde had made to ratify international instruments, particularly the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to bring the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship into line with the Paris Principles and to adopt national plans, notably to fight human trafficking and to eliminate child labour.

85. Serbia commended Cabo Verde for the steps it had taken to implement recommendations from the previous cycle and to cooperate with the human rights mechanisms, and encouraged it to continue that ongoing cooperation with the United Nations.

86. Singapore acknowledged the measures Cabo Verde had taken to combat human trafficking, revise the Penal Code, establish the Interministerial Commission for the

Elaboration of National Reports and build a more inclusive society, particularly through free school enrolment and by promoting the attendance of persons with disabilities at public educational establishments.

87. Slovenia commended Cabo Verde for having ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, its extension of an open invitation to special procedure mandate holders and the revision of the Penal Code. It was concerned by reports of discrimination and violence against women, violence and exploitation of children and human trafficking.

88. South Africa congratulated Cabo Verde for having ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and noted with appreciation the reduction of the gender gap in literacy rates.

89. Spain welcomed the achievements of Cabo Verde and the measures it had taken since the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

90. Timor-Leste noted that it shared cultural and historic ties and enjoyed bilateral cooperation in the area of education with Cabo Verde. It applauded the ongoing efforts of Cabo Verde to reduce poverty in the country.

91. Togo praised the efforts Cabo Verde had made to revise the Penal Code in order to combat human trafficking, establish the Office of the Ombudsman, adopt the National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan and ratify a number of international instruments, particularly the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

92. Tunisia acknowledged the steps Cabo Verde had taken to improve the legislative and institutional framework in line with its international commitments, including increasing resources for the National Commission for Human Rights, harmonizing national legislation with the provisions of international conventions and adopting a national plan to combat violence against women, children and adolescents.

93. Ukraine commended Cabo Verde for the efforts it had made to revise the Penal Code, establish the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion, develop the Strategic Plan for the Justice Sector and approve the National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan. It encouraged Cabo Verde to take further steps to improve the human rights situation.

94. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland acknowledged the measures Cabo Verde had taken to prosecute public officials and police officers who had committed human rights abuses and to create an interministerial commission. Nevertheless, it urged Cabo Verde to implement as soon as possible the recommendations that had been made during the universal periodic review.

95. The United States of America expressed appreciation for the decision Cabo Verde had made to join the Equal Rights Coalition and create its first anti-trafficking national action plan, for which it recommended that additional funds be allocated. Nevertheless, it expressed concern that prison conditions continued to remain harsh, and that sexual and gender-based violence still persisted.

96. Uruguay congratulated Cabo Verde for its wide ratification of international instruments pertaining to human rights and welcomed the initiatives taken in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It highlighted, above all, the recent adoption of the Child and Adolescent Statute, aimed at updating and unifying substantive laws and procedural rules.

97. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela complimented Cabo Verde for the legal and institutional reforms it had undertaken, such as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the endorsement of the National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan (2017–2022) and the launch in 2015 of the National Gender Equality Plan.

98. Zambia expressed appreciation for the positive efforts Cabo Verde had made in ensuring human rights and praised the Government for having ratified the Optional

Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2014 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2016.

99. Zimbabwe complimented Cabo Verde on the adoption of the Child and Adolescent Statute, the National Gender Equality Plan and a number of measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, such as older persons, persons with disabilities and refugees.

100. Afghanistan expressed appreciation for the efforts Cabo Verde had made to harmonize domestic legislation with the Rome Statute, and for its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

101. Algeria complimented it on its adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012–2016), the National Migration Strategy and the adoption in 2013 of the National Immigration Strategy for Development. Algeria also expressed appreciation for the new interministerial project to register child births.

102. Angola encouraged the Government of Cabo Verde to continue its policies to promote and protect human rights, particularly with regard to the ratification of international instruments in the area. It congratulated Cabo Verde for having ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms.

103. Argentina welcomed the delegation from Cabo Verde and congratulated the Government on its approval of the National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan and its efforts to promote education.

104. Australia welcomed the efforts of Cabo Verde to protect and promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in its national plan and encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to remove discrimination based on gender identity. Australia also expressed concern over gender-based violence as well as the treatment of detainees.

105. The delegation expressed its gratitude to the members of the Council and reiterated some of the main points that had been raised during its introductory note. It recalled that, on 3 May 2018, the Cabinet had approved the National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and other measures to repress human trafficking, with a particular focus on women, children and migrants. To that end, the Government was strengthening its national capacities, including through training for law enforcement officers and members of the judiciary, organized in conjunction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

106. The National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence included specific complaint mechanisms and awareness-raising on the trafficking of women. The Government was preparing a national inclusion plan for migrants who returned to the country, by strengthening host capacity and supporting family and social reintegration through awareness-raising campaigns, and through the prevention of forced returns. The plan should be approved by December 2018.

107. Cabo Verde had created a national council for migration as a consultative body that assisted the Government in defining and executing migration policies. Female genital mutilation was not part of Cabo Verdean culture and was prohibited by law. A number of cases had been registered among migrant communities and the Government was trying to hold those responsible to account through criminal procedures.

108. The operation of the justice system in Cabo Verde was a real concern for the Government. In that regard, the resources requested by the Higher Council of Magistrates had been allocated by the Government. There was a significant backlog in the prosecutors' offices, and investigative departments had been created specifically to address that problem.

109. The Government was strengthening the judicial police, making efforts to digitize criminal information and investing in a fingerprint comparison system and training for the forensic police. The aim was for the judicial police to act as the forensic police and enable it to address the most complex crimes. The Government was making efforts to improve the judicial system, court oversight and procedural goals. Measures had been established to ensure that cases were dealt with on a first-come-first-served basis.

110. The Government was taking all measures necessary to improve the prison system and make a qualitative leap forward, including through the introduction of alternative measures, such as house arrests. It was also developing a plan to combat social exclusion and poverty, particularly through the establishment of a water and sanitation fund to provide water to more than 4,000 homes.

111. In conclusion, and in response to some of the recommendations it had received, the delegation stated that freedom of expression was enshrined in article 48 of the Constitution and in the Media Law; that the principle of equal pay for work of equal value was enshrined in article 62 of the Constitution; and that article 16 of the Labour Code stipulated that men and women who occupied the same position or performed the same task in the public administration should receive equal remuneration. The delegation also affirmed that article 145-A of the Penal Code had been revised and amended in 2015 in order to criminalize and punish the promotion of prostitution of children between 16 and 18 years of age.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

112. The following recommendations will be examined by Cabo Verde, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:

112.1 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Montenegro) (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (Portugal) (Ukraine);

112.2 Consider ratifying the International Convention for Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia);

112.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain) (Portugal);

112.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);

112.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal) (Denmark);

112.6 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Rwanda);

112.7 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

112.8 Ratify the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and continue efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as recommended by Brazil in the previous review (Brazil);

112.9 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Côte d'Ivoire) (Honduras);

112.10 Become a party to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Togo);

112.11 Consider the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Uruguay);

112.12 Take all necessary steps to ensure the implementation of the content of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);

112.13 Adopt a law on implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Niger);

112.14 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);

- 112.15 Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Togo);
- 112.16 Accelerate efforts to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Georgia);
- 112.17 Consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Philippines);
- 112.18 Submit overdue reports to treaty bodies (Ukraine);
- 112.19 Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 112.20 Consider offering a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedures (Uruguay);
- 112.21 Adopt legislation and public policies to ensure participation of civil society in the implementation and evaluation of measures adopted in the field of human rights (Chile);
- 112.22 Speed up the process of bringing the national human rights institution into conformity with the Paris Principles (Georgia);
- 112.23 Step up its efforts to strengthen its national human rights institution with the view to become Paris Principles compliant (Philippines);
- 112.24 Step up its efforts to ensure that the Human Rights Commission is in full conformity with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 112.25 Accelerate the adoption of the draft statute to establish the Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles in terms of independence and autonomy (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 112.26 Bring the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Burkina Faso);
- 112.27 Bring the National Commission on Human Rights and Citizenship in line with the Paris Principles (Togo);
- 112.28 Expedite plans to reform the National Commission on Human Rights and Citizenship in order to comply with the Paris Principles and to strengthen its independence (Germany);
- 112.29 Make further efforts towards implementation of the National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan (Azerbaijan);
- 112.30 Continue Cabo Verde's strong cooperation and engagement with national and international human rights mechanisms (Indonesia);
- 112.31 Establish a national preventive mechanism against torture in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Montenegro);
- 112.32 Continue efforts to further strengthen the national human rights institution and related mechanisms (Nepal);
- 112.33 Consider the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for the elaboration of reports, follow-up and implementation of the recommendations, in line with the elements of the 2016 guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, published by OHCHR (Uruguay);
- 112.34 Consolidate efforts in the sphere of combating discrimination (Morocco);
- 112.35 Continues to work with national bodies and non-governmental organizations to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender and intersex persons through programmes such as the United Nations Free and Equal campaign (Australia);

112.36 Take effective measures to facilitate the reintegration of former detainees, by inter alia improving access to education, vocational training or other activities for detainees (Germany);

112.37 Take appropriate measures to ensure that juvenile offenders are held separately from adults in detention facilities at all times (Ghana);

112.38 Ensure the reduction of pretrial detention (Botswana);

112.39 Provide sufficient resources to justice system in order to enable better resolving of legal cases to avoid over extended pretrial detention (Spain);

112.40 Take all necessary measures to remedy the situation in the prison environment, in particular the overcrowding of prisons and the exposure of prisoners to infectious diseases or violence (Luxembourg);

112.41 Strengthen efforts in the field of education and human rights training, in particular for the benefit of the law enforcement officials (Morocco);

112.42 Reduce prison overcrowding by resorting more to alternative sanctions to imprisonment (Senegal);

112.43 Improve conditions in prisons by reducing overcrowding and ensure separation between children and adults (Spain);

112.44 Redouble efforts to improve prison conditions (Burundi);

112.45 Improve prison conditions by increasing the number of corrections officers, ensuring the separation of inmates by sex, age and status and by appointing a prison ombudsman (United States of America);

112.46 Investigate and hold to account those responsible for human rights abuses in the country's prisons (Australia);

112.47 Strengthen the judiciary system, by providing more resources and ensuring a better internal work flow, to improve response time to cases (France);

112.48 Promote transparency and plurality of information (France);

112.49 Decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that is in accordance with international standards, and adopt a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards (Ireland);

112.50 Adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation and a national action plan on trafficking with measurable indicators and targets (Hungary);

112.51 Intensify efforts to restrict human trafficking in persons (Iraq);

112.52 Finalize and approve the recently draft National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018–2021), and ensure its implementation (Israel);

112.53 Take steps to expeditiously approve and implement the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018–2021) that is under development and to allocate adequate resources for the establishment and maintenance of shelters for victims of violence and trafficking (Singapore);

112.54 Continue to strengthen the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018–2021) in terms of raising awareness and preventing this crime (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

112.55 Adopt further measures to prevent and combat episodes of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation (Italy);

- 112.56 Take measures to prevent human trafficking and increase services for the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking (Mexico);
- 112.57 Step up efforts to combat trafficking in persons by adopting comprehensive legislation prohibiting and criminalizing trafficking in persons, including trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of exploitation in prostitution and domestic servitude (Netherlands);
- 112.58 Sustain and scale up its efforts in combating trafficking in persons (Nigeria);
- 112.59 Strengthen the priority already given to human trafficking, and contemplate adopting additional legislation and measures which will be comprehensive and ensure increased efficiency (Portugal);
- 112.60 Continue preventing human trafficking, particularly of children (Senegal);
- 112.61 Take efforts to prevent and eliminate human trafficking, including improving services to protect, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims (Timor-Leste);
- 112.62 Pursue efforts to combat the phenomenon of human trafficking (Tunisia);
- 112.63 Continue taking steps towards the adoption of the comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, which would cover the exploitation of women and children (Ukraine);
- 112.64 Renew the national action plan with specific reference to trafficking and exploitation of women and children through prostitution (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 112.65 Strengthen the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences by training officials to better identify trafficking victims, developing a mechanism to refer victims to services and prosecuting traffickers (United States of America);
- 112.66 Combat human trafficking, in particular through the adoption of a general law in the field, the development of protection services and services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims and access to recourse mechanisms (Algeria);
- 112.67 Step up efforts to eradicate human trafficking, in particular of women and children, including through the implementation of the 2015 law amending the criminal code in connection with human trafficking (Canada);
- 112.68 Incorporate the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the labour laws in line with the ILO Conventions (Lesotho);
- 112.69 Fully incorporate into the Labour Code the principle of equal pay for work of equal value between men and women (Zambia);
- 112.70 Reduce the wage gender gap between males and females (Iraq);
- 112.71 Continue to endeavour to eliminate gender-based pay gaps and consider incorporating the principle of equal pay for equal work into its Labour Code (South Africa);
- 112.72 Ensure equality of men and women by combating deep-rooted gender stereotypes, tackling harmful practices and eliminating gender-based pay gaps; consider incorporating the principle of equal pay for equal work into its Labour Code (Namibia);
- 112.73 Guarantee the protection of workers against discrimination on the grounds of national origin (Mexico);

- 112.74 Intensify ongoing efforts towards the fulfilment of its human rights obligations (Nigeria);
- 112.75 Intensify its poverty-alleviation efforts (Philippines);
- 112.76 Take effective measures for inclusive socioeconomic development of the people (Nepal);
- 112.77 Continue to make progress on the economic activities aimed at reducing the level of poverty in the country (Ethiopia);
- 112.78 Include measures aimed at ensuring transparent, efficient and accountable delivery of public services into its national development strategy (Azerbaijan);
- 112.79 Ensure access and the right to water and sanitation, particularly as part of its development policy (France);
- 112.80 Continue to implement existing policies and action plans to remedy water and sanitation deficiencies in urban and rural areas (Luxembourg);
- 112.81 Step up its efforts to combat poverty and promote social inclusion by implementing rural development strategies and mainstreaming human rights in public policies in rural areas, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and women (Brazil);
- 112.82 Continue to consolidate its social programmes in order to improve the quality of life of its people, in particular of those most in need, with the international assistance and cooperation the country requires (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 112.83 Finalize the development of the plan to combat poverty and social exclusion (Zimbabwe);
- 112.84 Step up measures to combat poverty and to integrate the most vulnerable groups (Angola);
- 112.85 Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development and to raise the living standards of its people (China);
- 112.86 Ensure that vulnerable groups, such as women and persons with disabilities, also benefit from the "Housing for All" programme (Equatorial Guinea);
- 112.87 Continue efforts to guarantee the access by children, girls, women and persons with disabilities to health, education and water and sanitation services (Mexico);
- 112.88 Step up acts and efforts to guarantee access of the population, particularly disadvantaged people, to drinking water and sanitation, putting into practice those measures included in the Water and Sanitation Fund (Spain);
- 112.89 Implement the National Strategy Plan for Elderly Care (2017–2021) (Cuba);
- 112.90 Expedite the process of establishing a Unified Social Registry of Beneficiaries of Social Protection, to enable the registration of vulnerable families and benefits provisions they can receive under different vulnerability situations (Indonesia);
- 112.91 Provide all assistance necessary to facilitate the social and economic integration of forced returnees (Afghanistan);
- 112.92 Step up measures to expand access to public health-care system for better access to primary care for the population (Djibouti);
- 112.93 Continue efforts to develop the health sector (Egypt);

- 112.94 Undertake extra measures to address the challenges of illiteracy among all in the rural and urban areas (Lesotho);
- 112.95 Continue its current efforts to expand the scope of free education to include secondary education level (Libya);
- 112.96 Continue efforts to implement the National Strategy for Human Rights Education at all levels (Burkina Faso);
- 112.97 Strengthen adult literacy programmes, especially for women in rural areas (Iceland);
- 112.98 Continue to introduce measures to improve access to education (South Africa);
- 112.99 Prevent, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in educational institutions (Iceland);
- 112.100 Implement in all instances the policy allowing pregnant girls to continue and return to school during and after pregnancy (Iceland);
- 112.101 Establish strategies to facilitate access to education for women in rural areas (Senegal);
- 112.102 Continue to ensure that its Education Strategic Plan (2017–2021) is adequately resourced to provide quality education for all children, in particular those from poor households and children with disabilities (Singapore);
- 112.103 Bolster implementation of measures taken to guarantee access to education for women and girls, in particular for girls with disabilities and those living in rural areas (Argentina);
- 112.104 Step up the struggle against violence against women (France);
- 112.105 Ensure implementation of the regulations for the shelters of victims of sexual violence in accordance with the norms (Gabon);
- 112.106 Further continue to combating any discrimination against women in socioeconomic activities, including in the field of employment and occupation (Ethiopia);
- 112.107 Ensure implementation of the legislative provisions towards elimination of all forms of violence against women (Gabon);
- 112.108 Take the necessary measures to investigate and sanction those responsible for the de facto polygamy and female genital mutilation (Argentina);
- 112.109 Strengthen its efforts to prevent gender-based violence by conducting awareness and education campaigns to facilitate a better understanding of the concept of gender equality (Canada);
- 112.110 Continue to strengthen women's rights and work to eliminate violence against women (Australia);
- 112.111 Adopt cross-cutting public policy to combat gender-based violence that ensure psychosocial rehabilitation of women and girls who are victims of domestic, sexual violence, trafficking or exploitation (Chile);
- 112.112 Ensure better implementation of the existing legislation and action plans for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women (Ukraine);
- 112.113 Provide adequate training for law enforcement and judicial professionals to appropriately respond to sexual and gender-based violence and increase public education on the harms it causes to individuals and to society as a whole (United States of America);

- 112.114 Continue to intensify efforts to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, in particular by putting an end to the harmful and discriminatory traditional practices on gender-based grounds (Uruguay);
- 112.115 Implement the existing legislation and action plans for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women (Zambia);
- 112.116 Combat gender-based violence, improve assistance to victims, create shelters and adopt measures which promote greater participation of women in economic and political life (Spain);
- 112.117 Continue to promote the rights of women and children, with an emphasis on combating violence (Timor-Leste);
- 112.118 Adopt and implement appropriate measures to combat violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence by, *inter alia*, establishing an adequate number of shelters for victims and providing systematic training on combating gender-based violence to judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and health professionals (Germany);
- 112.119 Ensure that cases of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, are investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted (Luxembourg);
- 112.120 Include in its National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation through the prostitution of children and women (Honduras);
- 112.121 Adopt a comprehensive national strategy to eliminate stereotypes that cause discrimination against women as well as harmful practices, particularly among migrant communities (Honduras);
- 112.122 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Italy);
- 112.123 Establish a strong legislative framework prohibiting and punishing all forms of discrimination against women, especially women with disabilities, older women, women heads of households and migrant women (Madagascar);
- 112.124 Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence, social discrimination and the economic discrimination of women (Portugal);
- 112.125 Strengthen implementation of legislation and policies aimed at the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and to ensure that reports of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls are effectively investigated and perpetrators prosecuted (Rwanda);
- 112.126 Ensure that violence against women, such as domestic violence and sexual violence, is punishable by law (Madagascar);
- 112.127 Strengthen and fully implement existing legislation and action plans aimed at eliminating all forms of gender based violence by ensuring that reports of domestic and sexual violence are more effectively investigated (Netherlands);
- 112.128 Step up measures to expand access to education, the empowerment of women and socioeconomic development (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 112.129 Accelerate the implementation of the Parity Law to boost the participation of women in political and public life (Zimbabwe);
- 112.130 Pursue efforts by taking the necessary measures to improve women's participation in political and public life (Djibouti);
- 112.131 Intensify efforts to address discrimination of women in society, in particular by approving a new parity law to help promote equal rights for women in the economic and political spheres (Germany);

- 112.132 Provide adequate resources to the Institute for Gender Equality and Equity in order to strengthen its ability to better promote gender mainstreaming at all levels of government (Ghana);
- 112.133. Continue efforts to incorporate a gender perspective in public policies and budgets (Cuba);
- 112.134 Ensure that single parent families headed by women have equal access to services and support as two-parent families (Iceland);
- 112.135 Increase its efforts to ensure equal pay for women, gender parity in public office and gender mainstreaming in public policy (Israel);
- 112.136 Step up efforts to promote the educational and health rights of women and the girl child by improving their access to education and health care, especially maternal health care (Botswana);
- 112.137 Effectively implement existing legislation and action plans for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women, in addition to victim protection programmes (Ireland);
- 112.138 Continue efforts to promote gender equality and non-discrimination (Maldives);
- 112.139 Continue to adopt and implement measures to promote gender equality in all areas, including education and health (Portugal);
- 112.140 Strengthen the implementation of existing legislative and policy measures on gender equality and protection of women (Slovenia);
- 112.141 Ensure the equality of women and men by combating deep-rooted gender stereotypes and tackling harmful practices (South Africa);
- 112.142 Pursue efforts towards gender equality and combat discrimination against women (Tunisia);
- 112.143 Continue to adopt effective measures to promote gender equality and to better protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities (China);
- 112.144 Undertake the necessary awareness and education efforts to stop the practice of early marriage and early pregnancy (Canada);
- 112.145 Pursue efforts for the advancement of women's status (Egypt);
- 112.146 Intensify efforts to comply with national plans to combat sexual exploitation and child labour, upholding the right of all children and adolescents to rehabilitation and access to justice (Chile);
- 112.147 Increase the protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse, especially from sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking and corporal punishment, by implementing effectively existing legislation and protection measures put in place in recent years (Slovenia);
- 112.148 Further amend the Criminal Code in order to criminalize and punish the promotion of prostitution of children between 16 and 18 years of age (Namibia);
- 112.149 Amend the Criminal Code to prohibit the promotion of prostitution of children between 16 and 18 years of age (Hungary);
- 112.150 Intensify efforts aimed at putting an end to corporal punishment of children in all settings (Namibia);
- 112.151 Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with the Convention of the Rights of the Child in order to combat child labour (Angola);
- 112.152 Bolster the combating of child labour (France);

112.153 Continue to work on strengthening the comprehensive vision of the preventive measures and rehabilitation for the benefit of persons with disabilities (Libya);

112.154 Design, adopt and implement a national strategy on the situation of persons with disabilities that would be in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Serbia);

112.155 Update its legislation in accordance with recognized norms for migrant protection (Congo);

112.156 Consider enhancing coordination between institutions and services that deal with migration-related issues to aid in the effective implementation of rights under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);

112.157 Adopt an immigration law and an asylum law (Honduras);

112.158 Take necessary measures to ensure that migrant workers are protected against discrimination on the grounds of national origin (Zambia);

112.159 Take necessary steps to put an end, in law and in practice, to cases of statelessness (Algeria).

113. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Cabo Verde was headed by Her Excellency Madame Janine Tatiana Santos Lelis, Minister of Justice and Labour, and composed of the following members:

- Her Excellency Madame Maria de Jesus Veiga Miranda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
 - Mr. Alcides Barros, Advisor to the Permanent Mission of Cabo Verde to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
 - Madame Nandixany de Lurdes Souto Amado Alves Vieira Andrade, Advisor to the Minister of Justice and Labour;
 - Madame Mónica Cristina Pereira Soares Rosa Furtado, Director General of Social Inclusion in the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion;
 - Madame Dionara Amparo Dos Anjos Graça, Advisor with the National Commission of Human Rights.
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